WEDNESDAY
April 24, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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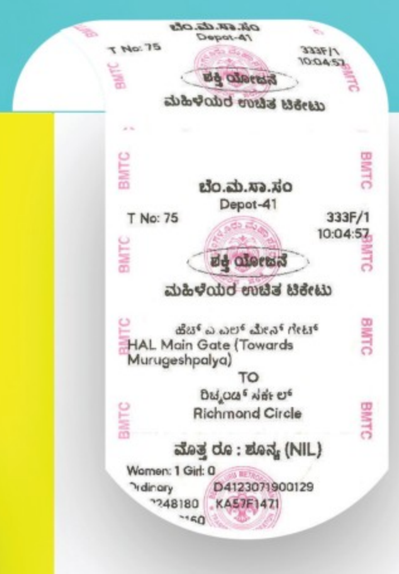

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NO COURT RELIEF

Kejriwal and Kavitha to remain in jail

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ANGER AND DESPAIR

Pro-Palestine protests rock U.S. campuses

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SHOWN THE DOOR

Denied visa extension: Australian journalist

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Tossing out the junk food

Healthy and nutritionally diverse diets must be promoted

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REMARKABLE EFFORT

Stoinis special powers Super Giants home

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We are examining Modi's Rajasthan speech, says EC

Only remedy is disqualification of those 'who try to create a divide between different classes of citizens', Cong. tells the poll body; CPI(M) also seeks action against PM for 'inflammatory' speech

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday said it was examining the complaint lodged against a speech made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Rajasthan.

Mr. Modi had said that if elected to power, the Congress would distribute people's property, land, and gold among Muslims.

Sources said the complaint regarding the Prime Minister's speech had been received and was under the consideration of the commission.

The Congress approached the poll body on Monday and formally lodged a complaint seeking action against the Prime Minister. It alleged that the Prime Minister invoked religion and religious symbols to create enmity between groups.

"The only available remedy compatible with the principle of zero tolerance towards allegations of corrupt practices is the disqualification of the candidates who try to create a divide between different classes of the citizens of India regardless of the stature or position of that candidate," the Congress said in its memorandum to the commission.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury had written to the Election Commission demanding action against the Prime Minister for making "inflammatory" remarks.

The INDIA bloc parties, in a coordinated effort, too had asked citizens to send emails to the poll body raising this issue.

On Monday, the commission declined to comment on the matter.

WILL MOVE SC: CONGRESS
» PAGE 12

Communal hatred speeches of MODI Down Down
Communal hatred speeches of MODI Down Down
Communal hatred speeches of MODI Down Down
PARTY

Show of solidarity: Members of the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, and the Left parties staging a protest in Vijayawada on Tuesday against the remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. K.V.S. GIRI

Cong. tried to reduce quota for Dalits: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday accused the Congress of attempting to reduce the reservation for Dalits, tribals, and backward classes and give it to Muslims in defiance of the Constitution.

"As soon as the Congress formed the government at the Centre in 2004, one of its first tasks was to reduce the SC/ST reservation in Andhra Pradesh and give the quota to Muslims. Between 2004 and 2010, the Congress made four attempts to introduce Muslim reservation in that State, but it could not succeed because of legal impediments and the Supreme Court's alertness," Mr. Modi said at an election rally in Tonk district of Rajasthan.

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NEARBY

Delay in relief: CM leads protest

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah led a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises against delay in drought relief by the Centre, on Tuesday.
» PAGE 4

Elaborate security measures in place

BENGALURU
Elaborate security measures have been made with over 20,000 police personnel deployed along with 55 platoons of Central and State reserve force platoons to ensure law and order during the elections on Friday. » PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Govt. should act on FMCG firms using 'misleading' ads: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Centre should "activate itself" against Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies if they employ "misleading advertisements" about their products to target credulous consumers, especially families with babies and schoolchildren.

"The misleading advertisements of FMCGs take the public for a ride, particularly families, affecting their health. The issue concerns even the health of babies and schoolchildren," Justice Hima Kohli, heading a Bench with Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, observed.

The court voiced its concern amid recent reports alleging higher sugar content in Nestle's baby food products sold in India as well as in African and Latin American countries. The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry has asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to investigate the allegations against the leading FMCG.

"If these advertisements target babies and children, if that is happening, the Union has to activate itself," Justice Kohli underscored.

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» PAGE 10

SC tears into Patanjali over public apology

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Patanjali Ayurved if its apology published in newspapers was as big and expensive as its usual "front page" advertisements for herbal drugs. » PAGE 10

Out of race in Surat, Cong. nominee does vanishing act

Mahesh Langa
SURAT

A day after the BJP's Mukesh Dalal was elected unopposed to the Surat Lok Sabha seat, Congress candidate Nilesh Kumbhani – whose nomination papers were rejected on technical grounds – has gone incommunicado, prompting the local workers to protest outside his house here.

Mr. Dalal was declared the winner after the remaining candidates in the fray withdrew their nomination papers on Monday.

The protesting Congress workers called Mr. Kumbhani a "traitor" and "murderer of democracy". "He is missing, his phone is switched off and his location remains unknown," said the party workers.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
PITCH FOR WITHDRAWALS
» PAGE 12

Shah, Priyanka campaign in Bengaluru South

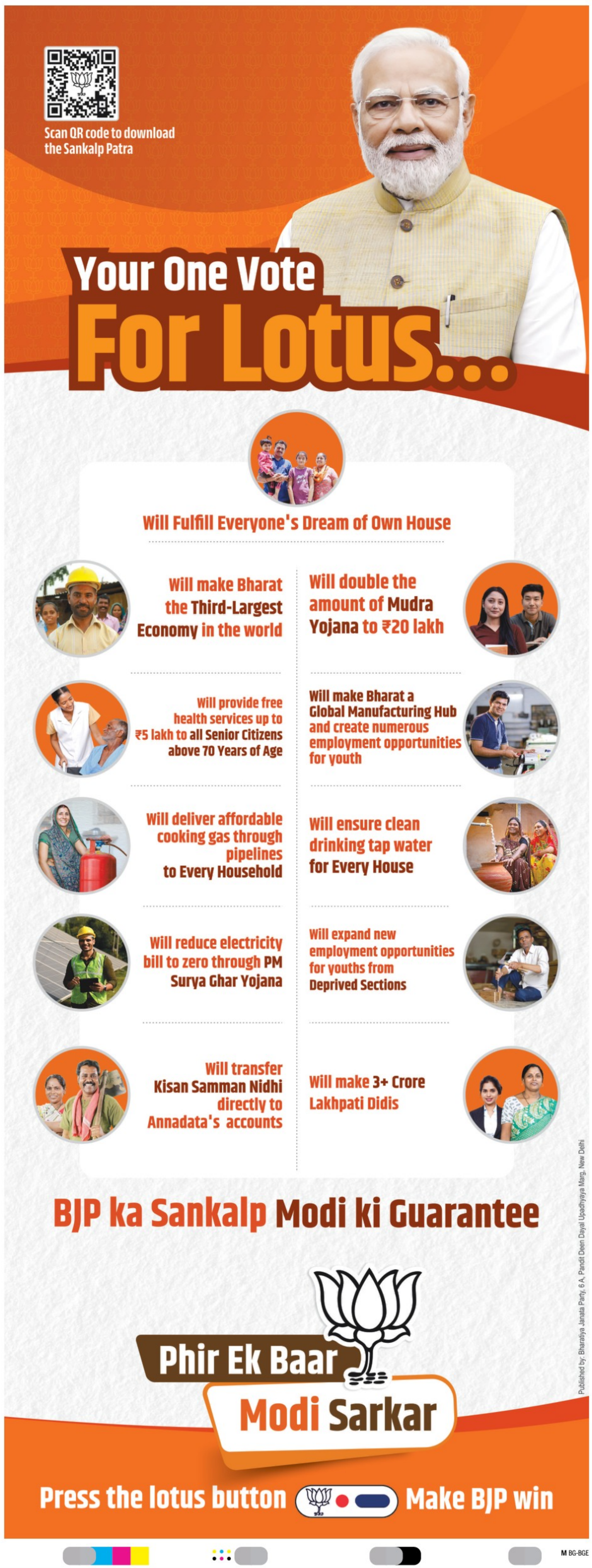
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Electioneering in Karnataka reached a feverish pitch a day ahead of public campaigning coming to a close on Wednesday.

Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra campaigned for their party candidates in Bengaluru South on Tuesday.

While Mr. Shah held a roadshow, Ms. Vadra, in a public rally, questioned Prime Minister Modi's "anti-Muslim" rhetoric in recent rallies. She also held a rally in Chitradurga.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 2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Boxer Lovlina aims to better the colour of her medal in Paris

She says switching from 69 to 75 kg has helped her massively and stresses the importance of having good sparring partners the way she had at a training camp in Turkey

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Lovlina Borgohain

Y.B. Sarangi

Lovlina Borgohain has come a long way since landing a bronze medal in 69kg in the Tokyo Games three years ago and becoming the third Indian boxer ever to earn a podium finish in the Olympics.

The 26-year-old has switched to a heavier weight, has gathered more experience and has reached the peak of her youth to emerge as a medal prospect for the country in Paris 2024 as well.

With about three months left for the Olympics, Lovlina is fine-tuning her game with an aim to better the colour of her medal and achieve a rare double. The ace boxer, managed by *IOS Sports and Entertainment*, spoke to *The Hindu* about her preparations for the mega event. *Excerpts:*

Q: How much pressure is there as you, one of the Indian individual Olympic medallists from the Tokyo Games, get ready for the Paris Games?

A: Pressure is there as it is the Olympics. The challenges will be there. I need to overcome all the difficulties. The good thing is I am positive about it because of my good experience in the last Olympics. Last time I got a bronze, this time I will try to change the colour of the medal.

After you switched to a higher 75kg weight category two years ago, how much have you changed your game and how have you progressed?

I have progressed well in the new weight. In 69kg, I got only bronze medals. After switching to 75kg, I became an Asian champion, a World champion and then got a silver medal in the Asian Games. Overall, my experience has been good. I feel more comfortable in 75kg and can perform better than what I did in 69kg.

After switching to 75kg, you started working on increasing your strength. How have you progressed since then?

Earlier, I was playing a defensive game. Now I adopt an attacking approach. I am changing my game and you can see this element. My work on increasing my strength is almost done for the Olympics. I am working on my overall game, we are analysing each opponent, who are much stronger in 75kg, and studying how to box against them.

In the Strandja Memorial tournament earlier this year you were disqualified in a bout. How are you planning to overcome this?

I don't think I deserved to be disqualified. Maybe, they could have deducted a point. I was not happy with the referee's decision. I was winning the bout, I won the first two rounds before getting disqualified. My opponent (Ireland's Aoife O'Rourke) was a strong boxer, a European champion, who went on to win the title. I learnt a lot from that experience. Had a point been deducted, even that would have made things difficult for me. In the Asian Games, a point was deducted from me and it cost me the fight. I am working on my clinching habit.

How was the experience in the recent Turkey camp?

It was a short camp, but we got sparring partners from Italy and Turkey. Turkey performed well in the last Olympics. We need good sparring at this stage and it was good to spar with them.

Since the number of boxers in the National camp has come down and it is difficult to find enough good sparring partners in women's heavier weights, how do you spar in the camp?

I spar with the boys in the camp as there are not too many options among girls. It helps while we go out for competitions. Prior to the Asian Games, I sparred with the boys and I got the benefit of that.

Since the 75kg weight class is not there for men any more, whom (boxers from which categories) do you spar with? Who is your favourite sparring partner?

Sparring with boys of lighter weight categories also helps as their power is almost equal. They have got good speed as well. I spar with boys from weight categories between 60kg and 67kg. There is no such favourite sparring partner. Generally youth boys and second and third ranked elite boxers spar with me.

How different is your approach between your training prior to the Tokyo Games and now?

The Tokyo Games were held during the time of Covid. Nothing was stable. We did not get any good international competitions and camps before the Olympics. Prior to going for the Italy tour, several boxers got Covid and it was a difficult time. Now, there is no such thing and we can focus well on our training and we are getting international exposure. So the preparation is better this time.

You spoke about a new version of your game. Can you explain how different it is going to be?

When I was boxing at 69kg, I was a little defensive. Of course, I needed to adopt different strategies against different opponents. That thing will continue, I am not saying it is going to change completely. But there are some changes, which all can see inside the ring.

You used to do a lot of strength and conditioning before the last Olympics. Have you changed anything this time?

Because of my strength and conditioning work, it helped improve my game. I am continuing that. But unlike last time, I am not focusing on it alone. I feel I have been able to build my strength well, even though there is still some scope. Now is the time to focus on technical and tactical aspects – how to study your opponent and make your plan and fight.

Are you working on the mental side of your game as well?

Yes, the mental side is a major aspect now as there is not much time left. Only three months are left, so the main thing is to focus on the Games.

What do you do to improve your focus?

I pray, meditate, do breathing exercises and read books in my free time. It feels good. Prior to the last Olympics, I used to do breathing exercises and meditation, but I did not pray. After the Olympics, I started praying sincerely and got to know how it helped mental health. I am trying to do these properly.

What kind of books do you read?

I read motivational books. During competitions I read books as we need to calm our mind. It is important. I like reading Secret series' The Magic.

Who will be your main challengers in the Olympics?

All are tough, but I feel I can do it because I have boxed with almost everyone and I have good experience. Even though it is going to be tough, I have to do well.

Which competitions are you going to participate in prior to the Olympics?

Next there is an invitational competition in Kazakhstan in May. The next one will be the Olympics. I think we will go to Paris 15-20 days prior to the Games.

How has been the support of your family this time?

My family has given me good support. Since I could not go home, I called all of them to Patiala to spend some time with them.

Last time (before the Olympics), my mother had gone through a kidney transplant. That was a difficult time for me. This time, she is absolutely fine and the family is supporting well.

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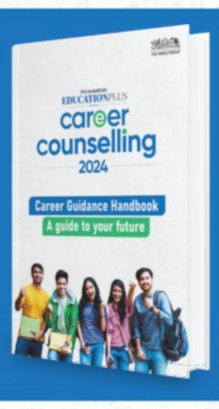

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Modi wouldn't have spoken the way he did if he knew the value of *mangalsutra*: Priyanka Gandhi

How many more elections will you fight with a Hindu-Muslim agenda, the Cong. leader asks the PM and says that the biggest leader of the country has given up morality and is only doing 'drama'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders during a public rally in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his recent remarks that the Congress "would not spare even the *mangalsutra* of women", Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday said he would not have made such a statement if he knew the value of the *mangalsutra*.

Challenging him to fight the elections on issues such as price rise and unemployment, Ms. Vadra said, "How many more elections will you fight on Hindu-Muslim agenda? Do you know our party's tradition? My grandmother Indira Gandhi donated her mangalsutra during the war. My mother's mangalsutra was also sacrificed for the country," she said referring to the assassination of her father.

"This country has been free for the past 75 years and 55 years the Congress was in power. Did Congress ever snatch your gold or mangalsutra?" she asked addressing a public meeting in Bengaluru South.

Sacrifice for family

Asserting that the BJP does not know women's problems, she said women sacrifice everything for the family. "When a farmer's debt increases, his wife mortgages her mangalsutra. When children in the family fall sick and when money is needed, the woman sacrifices her jewellery. Where was his concern for women when he announced demonetisation, when he suddenly announced the lockdown, when there was no food and transport for our countrymen?"

Referring to the massive farmers' protest, she said more than 600 farmers died.

"Why did our Prime Minister not show any concern for the mangalsutras of their wives? In Manipur, when women were assaulted and their mangalsutras were at stake, where was the Prime Minister? He is making such statements now during elections out of desperation. If he was concerned about women's mangalsutras, he would have given employment for the men in their families and would have empowered the women," she said.

Addressing another meeting in Chitradurga earlier, Ms. Vadra alleged that the biggest leader of the country has given up morality and is only doing "drama" before people. "Do not get carried away by his falsehood and choose wisely in the Lok Sabha polls," she said.

Stating that there are two different realities in the country today, Ms. Vadra said, "One reality is inflation and increasing unemployment while the other reality is what you see on television where you see our Prime Minister who tells you that our country is progressing rapidly."

Amit Shah participates in roadshow in Bengaluru South

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with BJP candidate for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah took out a roadshow in Bengaluru South Lok Sabha constituency on Tuesday night. It was taken from Swami Vivekananda Circle to St. Francis School for about 45 minutes.

People stood on either side of the road to greet Mr. Shah. He was accompanied by BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and party candidate Tejaswi Surya. Area MLA Satish Reddy too was present. Mr. Shah left for Cochin after the roadshow.

'Congress govt. does not have money to even fill potholes in city'

BJP candidate for Bengaluru Central P.C. Mohan blames guarantee schemes for lack of funds for development work

INTERVIEW

P.C. Mohan

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

P.C. Mohan, BJP candidate for Bengaluru Central seat.

Three-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Bharatiya Janata Party P.C. Mohan is seeking re-election from Bengaluru Central constituency. *The Hindu* caught up with him for a chat amid his busy campaign schedule. Excerpts:

Having served three terms, are you facing anti-incumbency? Also, how do you win as a BJP candidate in a constituency dominated by minorities?

I am a performer, and I have been accessible to my voters all these years. So, I am not facing anti-incumbency. I am a person who takes all communities along. Everyone votes for me based on my performance.

What are your achievements? What will you focus on if you win again?

In the first term, I couldn't do much as the UPA, led by Congress, was in power. In the last two terms, I have worked hard for coordination between Union and State governments. I ensured that the suburban rail project takes off. Prime Minister did the groundbreaking ceremony for a project that was conceived around 40 years ago. Work on two lines has begun. There were many hurdles for the Byappanahalli-Whitefield line of Namma Metro, which also I have worked hard to smoothen. This time, I will complete the suburban rail project, new metro lines and rejuvenation of lakes.

Commuters are unhappy over delays in both suburban and metro projects.

While the Union government sanctions and funds these projects, the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) executing these projects are headed by officers of the State government. All the three city MPs have been demanding appointment of a full-time Managing Director to KRIDE, which is executing the suburban rail project. But the State Government hasn't made the appointment. The Union government has provided sanctions and funds on time. and hence, cannot be blamed for the delay.

The constituency houses the city's tech corridor, which is reeling from a severe water crisis. The Congress has accused BJP MPs of not getting clearance for the Mekedatu balancing reservoir, which they argue would prevent such a crisis. Why hasn't the Union Government cleared the project?

Let Congress convince the DMK government in Tamil Nadu to withdraw their objections to Mekedatu project. The Union government will clear the project in no time.

Bengaluru Central constituency has a significant population of urban poor. Won't the State government's guarantee schemes impact your chances this time?

Owing to these schemes, development has come to a standstill in Bengaluru. In the last 11 months, this government has not taken up any development work in the city.

This government has no money to even fill potholes.

Are you seeking votes in the name of P.C. Mohan or Narendra Modi?

I am asking people to vote for me, and also proudly asking votes based on the achievements of the last 10 years of the Narendra Modi-led government. Can Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seek votes in the name of Rahul Gandhi? Congress leaders are jealous that we have a towering national leader like Mr. Modi.

Elaborate security arrangements in place for elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Elaborate security measures have been made with over 20,000 police personnel deployed along with 55 platoons of Central and State reserve force platoons to ensure law and order during the Lok Sabha elections in the five constituencies in and around the city scheduled on Friday.

Briefing the media on Tuesday, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said that among the 8,088 polling booths in the city limits, 1,737 have been marked critical and security arrangements have been made accordingly. Apart from the entire city police force, an additional 4,000 home guards, 11 companies of Central Armed Police Force, 14 platoons of State Reserve Police Force, 30 platoons of City Armed Reserve Force have been deployed at strategic locations.

A total of 103 checkposts have been put up across the city with 91 flying squads patrolling round the clock to check illegalities related to elections. As part of the preventive measures, the city police have rounded up anti-social and habitual offenders and deposited 7,533 licensed arms from the members of the public at the jurisdictional stations .

As per the EC directions, prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Cr Pc will be imposed 48 hours ahead from Wednesday 6 p.m. to midnight of Friday to ensure free and fair election. During this period, procession, gathering of more than five, and other objectionable activities have been prohibited. Sale of liquor has also been banned.

Horticulture Department warns public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Horticulture Department has urged the citizens to not pay any money for an event called 'Forest Bathing Experience' organised in Cubbon Park by a Pune-based company named Trove Experience.

In social media posts which went viral, the company had advertised that for a two-and-a-half-hour event that will be held in the morning of April 28, participants would have to pay ₹1,500. "As Cubbon Park comes under Karnataka Parks Act, 1975, there is no provision to conduct commercial activities in the park. The department has also not given them permission to host this event. Hence, we request the public not to pay money for such events and get cheated," said a release.

BWSSB sets May 7 as deadline to regularise illegal sewage connections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has set a deadline of May 7 for those who have taken illegal sewage connections to apply and regularise them.

All buildings have to take a drainage line from BWSSB and let the sewage generated into the dedicated line. Larger buildings need to install an in-situ Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and use treated water for non-potable purposes. "However, we have found that many are violating these norms and are illegally letting sewage into BWSSB's lines. A survey to identify such buildings is underway. Meanwhile, we have also given a time window for such buildings to regularise their connections," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB.

After the May 7 deadline, BWSSB has warned of stringent action against those who have illegal sewage connections in the city.

Not only that, BWSSB will also take action against those letting rainwater into manholes and underground drainage systems during the upcoming monsoon season, Mr. Manohar said.

Even as the city is still navigating a drinking water crisis, Mr. Manohar held a monsoon preparedness meeting on Tuesday. He directed officials to survey and identify points where rainwater enters the sewage system and draw up an action plan to do interventions to prevent these. He also directed officials to carry out desilting of manholes and drainage lines wherever necessary. "During rains, many manhole covers open up due to pressure. Such manholes need to be identified and pressure locking systems should be installed. Many people also remove the lids for rainwater to drain out. But this is dangerous. Also many people let rainwater into manholes. Rainwater has to be let into storm water drains or into rainwater harvesting pits and not into drains," he said.

BAHL invites EoI for developing hotel at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly three years after it was announced that a 775-room hotel would come up at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bangalore Airport Hotel Limited (BAHL) has invited an expression of interest (EoI) from contractors for construction of the hotel. BAHL is one of the subsidiaries of Bangalore International Airport Ltd., which operates the airport.

"BAHL invites Expression of Interest from experienced and reputed contractors / developers for Civil & Structural works of 775 Keys Combo Hotel (Vivanta and Ginger) at Kempegowda International Airport," stated the invitation of expression of interest issued on Tuesday.

In addition to the above, a Request For Proposal for excavation work for the proposed 775 Keys Combo Hotel was also issued recently.

In June 2021, the Indian Hotels Company, which owns and operates Taj Group of hotels, entered into an agreement with Bengaluru Airport City Limited for setting up the hotel. The proposed hotel comprises a combination of a 450-room Vivanta and a 325-room Ginger hotel and will be located in close proximity to the concert arena that is currently under development on the airport premises.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. TRD-BSP-227-24-25
Date 10/04/2024

Work: Major Repairing/Overhauling along with Supply, Erection & Commissioning of worn-out spares in Tower wagons in Bilaspur Divison. **Tender Value: Rs. 44,49,997.00/-, EMD: Rs. 89,000.00/-, Submission of Tender:** up to **15:00** hrs. on **02/05/2024**.

For further details/purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above works, please contact Office of the Sr. DEE/TRD/SECR/Bilaspur or refer/download Tender document which is abailable on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. Divl. Elect. Engg.(TRD)
CPR/10/22 *S.E.C.Railway/Bilaspur*

South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Mrs.Tabassum Fathima, W/o Sri.Khadar Shariff** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original WILL bearing doc.no.225/1992-93, in Book-3, Volume No.43 at pages 17 to 20, dated:25.01.1993, which was registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Srirampuram, Bangalore, was lost.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

Schedule : All the piece and parcel of property bearing New Municipal No.7/1, out of **Property No.6**, situated at **4th Cross, Padarayanapura, Bangalore-560 026**, BBMP W-136(43), Measuring East to West : **15-0 Feet** and North to South : **40-0 Feet**, in all measuring **600 Square Feet**, along with residential house thereon and bounded on:

East by : House belongs to Smt.Pyaru, West by : Others Property, North by : Road, South by : House belongs to Sri.Basha.

Raviprakash.H.C, Advocate,
#644/32, 6th Main, Vijayanagar,
Bengaluru-560040.
Mobile No : 8660025758 / 9980052890

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India आगा Andhra

JAYANAGAR BRANCH (00742)
No.54. 12th Main Road, Old Sub Registrar Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore 560 011.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) thatthe below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession 20.12.2023 of has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Secured Creditor will be sold by holding public E-auction **"As is where is", As is what is" and "whatever there in" on 29.05.2024, 11:00 am to 04:00 pm** for recovery of **Rs.88,83,895/- as on 22.04.2024** plus subsequent interest and other charges. **1. Mr. Ashwin L S/o Lakshmikanthan, No.984, Vijayaranga, BCCHS Layout, Vajarahalli, Bangalore-560062. 2. Mrs. K Gowthami W/o Ashwin L S/o Lakshmikanthan, No. 984, Vijayaranga, BCCHS Layout, Vajarahalli, Bangalore-560062.** The reserve Price will be **Rs.89,91,000/- and EMD deposit will be Rs.8,99,100/- (10% of Reserve Price).**

Details of immovable secured assets to be sold: Schedule Property is in the name of Mr. Ashwin L: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (Description of the entire property) **COMPOSITE PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Vacant Site No. 15/1 and 15, Situated at 5th Cross, Avalahalli Layout, Bangalore, Presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore & bearing BBMP New Municipal No. 15/1 and 15, situated at 5th Cross, Avalagalli Layout, Bangalore, Ward no. 41- Galianjaneya Temple, New PID No. 41-111-15/1 and PID No. 41-111-15, Bangalore, Measuring East to West On Northern Side 51-0 Feet, on the Southern Side 49-0 Feet and Northern Side 51-0 Feet, on the Southern Side 49-0 Feet and North to South : On the Eastern Side 49 Feet and On the Western Side 50-0 Feet, in all Measuring 2475 Sq.Feet, and bounded as follows: **East by:** Road; **West by:** Property No.13, **North by :** Property No.14, **South by:** A.K.Y.W. Colony

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY (Description of the Undivided Interest in the land herein) 250 Sq. Feet of Undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprising in Schedule 'A' Property.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY: Three Bed Rooms residential apartment/flat bearing Unit No.T-2, in the Third Floor in the residential apartment building known as "MSR NIGAM", with Super Built up Area of 1500 Sq. Feet, having Vitrified tiles flooring, one covered car parking in the stilt floor, water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies lifts, staircase and other areas of common use and bounded as follows : **East by:** Common Passage; **West by:** Others Property; **North by:** Others Property; **South by:** Flat No.T-1.

For Details terms and condition of the sale, please referto the link provided in **(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in**
The intending purchaser require to register through : **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com.**
For E-auction Related queries Please contact : **BM : 9324800742**

Date : 24.04.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

New type of host defence against Zika, dengue viruses revealed

In an elegant series of experiments, researchers showed that some extracellular vesicles bear the same proteins on their surface that some viruses use to enter cells, and that they compete with these viruses for the same receptors and crowd them out, preventing an infection

Arun Panchapakesan

The mere presence of a virus in a bodily fluid doesn't mean it is transmitted via that route. Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses are present in fluids like saliva and semen but don't spread orally or sexually. This fact has puzzled scientists for years, and now a research team has finally explained why.

On March 29, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) posted a tweet that sparked concerns among scientists and prompted many to contact the WHO to say there was enough evidence to discredit the tweet's contents, and suggest it steer clear of such assertions. The tweet was later proven to be factually incorrect but the WHO remained unconvinced for almost two years.

It read "FACT: #COVID19 is NOT airborne".

Transmission is a crucial event in a virus's life cycle, yet studying it has been very tricky. A virus that can't transmit is of no consequence to anyone. Successful viruses have extraordinary adaptations selected through years of evolution to ensure they can jump to new hosts.

A space-fill drawing showing a cross-section through a Zika virus particle as it interacts with a cell. The two main proteins of the viral envelope are shown in red and purple. The lipid membrane of the envelope is shown in lavender. The capsid proteins, in orange, are shown interacting with the RNA genome, in yellow, at the virus's centre. The cell-surface receptor proteins are in green, the cytoskeleton in blue, and blood plasma proteins in gold. DAVID GOODSELL (CC BY 4.0)

What does a virus do inside the body?

Most human viruses achieve this by ensuring they are present in bodily fluids that contact the outer environment, and subsequently, a new host.

Once inside the new host, a virus must be present at the correct location to infect new target cells. Viruses are usually highly selective in the cells they infect. This phenomenon, called tropism, occurs because most viruses have special proteins on their outer surface that make contact with a receptor on the host cell. Any cell-type that makes the receptor can be infected by the virus.

For example, the receptor for HIV is a protein called CD4. Only cells that make the CD4 protein, such as T-cells and macrophages, can be infected by HIV. Similarly, SARS-CoV-2 uses a receptor called ACE2. Cells of the respiratory tract and some cardiovascular cells all express ACE2, and are target cells for SARS-CoV-2. HIV can't infect respiratory cells, and SARS-CoV-2 can't infect T-cells or macrophages.

Viral transmission is an outcome of a chase inside the host: between the virus making copies of itself and the immune system trying to destroy the virus and infected cells. The virus must transmit before the immune system beats it or the host dies. One strategy viruses use to achieve this is by making proteins on the surface that have receptors on multiple cell-types. Such a strategy will allow them to infect different cell-types, allowing access to multiple body fluids, enabling faster transmission.

What is the PS receptor?

One such receptor is for a protein called phosphatidyl serine (PS). The PS protein is usually expressed by dying cells in the body, as a signal to the immune cells to destroy them. The immune cells express the PS receptor and fuse themselves with these cells, quietly destroying them. Viruses hijack this pathway with a process called apoptotic mimicry: by expressing the PS protein on their own surfaces, allowing them to infect the very cells that will destroy them.

The WHO's tweet and its subsequent withdrawal exemplifies the difficulties of studying viral transmission. The problem is especially challenging when we're studying viruses that can use the PS receptor for entry. Since the PS receptor is expressed by many cells – apart from some cells of the immune system – the virus tends to be present in multiple compartments. Yet, the mere presence of a virus in a given compartment wouldn't guarantee transmission from that route.

For example, the Zika virus can be detected in semen, saliva, and breast milk but rarely spreads through these means despite the presence of target cells in the oral and genital cavities. Zika transmits mainly via mosquitoes.

How does the body defend itseld?

Now, scientists at the Institute of Molecular Virology at the Ulm University Medical Centre, Germany, have identified a novel defence mechanism the human body uses to prevent Zika and some other viruses from transmitting via non-conventional routes. The study, published in the journal *Nature Microbiology* on March 25, explains how the body uses extracellular vesicles in these bodily fluids to inhibit viral infection.

> Transmission is a crucial event in a virus's life cycle. A virus that can't transmit is of no consequence to anyone. Successful viruses have extraordinary adaptations selected through years of evolution to ensure they can jump to new hosts

Vesicles are small structures enclosed by fat that a cell uses to transport substances from one part of the cell to another. When they are secreted outside the cell, they're called extracellular vesicles. The researchers discovered that these extracellular vesicles are abundant in saliva and semen and contain the same PS proteins on their surface that viruses like Zika use for infection. The team also discovered that the concentration of these extracellular vesicles that contain PS is low in the blood and high in saliva and semen.

Through a series of experiments, they demonstrated the PS-containing vesicles compete for the same receptors the viruses use for entry, thus crowding the latter out and preventing an infection.

What does the discovery portend?

The group also showed that all viruses that use the PS receptor for apoptotic mimicry – the dengue, chikungunya, West Nile, ebola, and the vesicular stomatitis viruses – are inhibited by the presence of extracellular vesicles. The vesicles' presence didn't affect the infectivity of viruses that don't use the PS receptor for entry, such as HIV and SARS-CoV-2.

The discovery of PS-coated vesicles for immunity represents a novel type of host defence against viral infection. While it is too early to speculate on potential therapeutic applications from this discovery, it opens up avenues for further research.

One thought-provoking, but also far-fetched, notion arising from the study is the possibility that PS-containing vesicles in humans could have influenced the evolution of mosquito-borne viruses. Perhaps these viruses were forced to look for an alternative when they couldn't spread through saliva or semen, and, to paraphrase Michael Crichton, "life found a way."

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaithonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.)

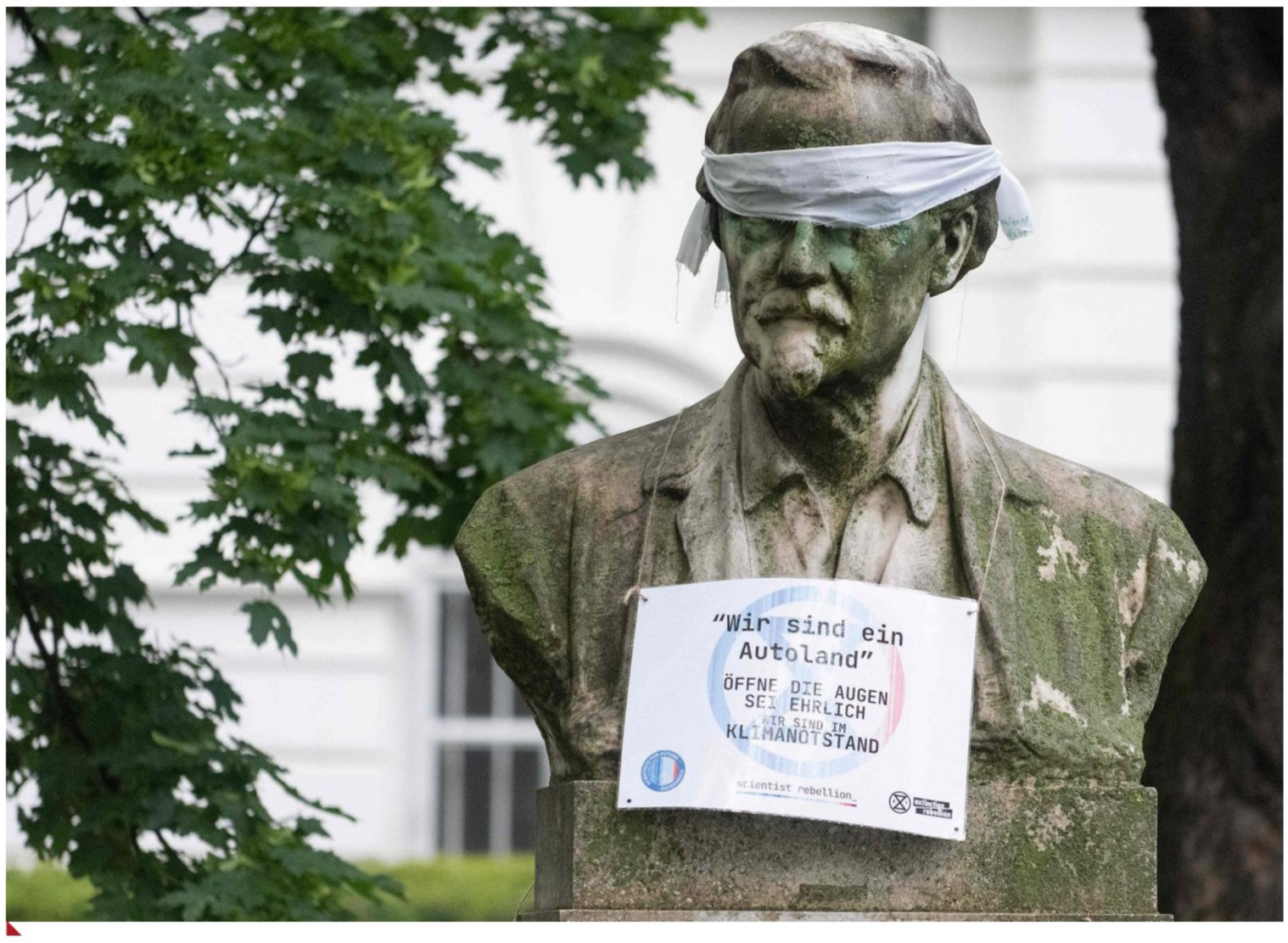
THE GIST

A virus must be at the correct location to infect new target cells. Viruses are selective. This is because viruses have special proteins on their outer surface that make contact with a receptor on the host cell. Any cell-type that makes the receptor can be infected

The HIV receptor is CD4. Only cells that make CD4, such as T-cells and macrophages, can be infected by HIV. SARS-CoV-2 uses a receptor called ACE2. Cells of the respiratory tract express ACE2, and are targets. HIV can't infect respiratory cells, and SARS-CoV-2 can't infect T-cells

Viral transmission is an outcome of a chase inside the host: between the virus making copies of itself and the immune system. The virus must transmit before the immune system beats it or host dies

BIG SHOT



A statue of Siegfried Samuel Marcus, a German inventor who made the first petrol-powered vehicle in 1864 while living in Austria is blindfolded and wears a sign reading: 'we are a car country, open the eyes, be honest. We are in a climate emergency', in Vienna, Austria. As climate change continues to escalate and parts of society look away, members of Scientist Rebellion International and Scientists for Future Austria are blindfolding monuments to highlight the crisis. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

The fizz in the shaving cream

Q. How do they get all that shaving cream into an aerosol can?

A: Shaving cream is basically soap and water. It is put into a can along with compressed butane gas. Without the gas, all you have is soapy liquid.

When the valve is pressed, some of the gas mixes with the soap and water, escapes, and expands to make foam.

The filling process is like the process used to fill air in the tube of a tyre, or even a balloon.

As long as the pressure is maintained in a closed system and the gas from a pressurised source is not allowed to escape, it takes up a very small amount of space.

The fact that any pressurised gas expands when the pressure is released means that a small quantity of soap and water can make a whole lot of foamy bubbles.

Since pressurised gas expands when the pressure is released, it means that a small quantity of soap and water can make a whole lot of foamy bubbles. GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in**
with the subject 'Daily page'

18-month-old baby run over by car driven by her father

The child came out of the car and was standing next to the front door when the father moved the vehicle unknowingly and knocked her down

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a one-and-a-half-year-old baby was run over by a car driven by her father in front of their house in Agara village in HSR Layout on April 21.

The deceased is Shazia Jannat. The child had returned from Channapatna in the evening, along with her parents, after attending a family function.

Her father, Shabik Mehdi, a 31-year-old businessman, took out the luggage from the vehicle while other members of the family got out of the car and went inside the house.

Shabik was arrested on the charge of death due to negligence and later released on bail

Shazia came out of the car and was standing next to the front door when Shabik got into the driver's seat. He was going to drop off his sister-in-law and her children at their house.

When he drove out, Shazia, who was standing close to the front door of the car, was knocked down and came under the rear wheel of the vehicle. She was crushed to death.

Hearing her scream, family members rushed out of the house. They took her to a hospital where doctors declared her as brought dead.

Incident recorded

The entire incident was recorded on CCTV camera.

HSR Layout traffic police arrested Shabik on the charge of death due to negligence, and rash and negligent driving. Later, he was released on bail.

Techie held on charge of murdering woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kodigehalli police said they had cracked the murder case of a 48-year-old home-alone woman and arrested her social media friend for allegedly strangulating her to death and robbing her valuables at her house on Friday night.

The deceased Shobha, a businesswoman, came in contact with the accused Naveen Gowda, who worked in software testing at a private company, through Instagram.

The duo started meeting and allegedly had an affair. On Friday, Naveen visited her house and had an argument with the deceased over a trivial row. In the melee, Naveen strangulated her to death and escaped with her mobile phone and ATM card and withdrew money, said the police.

The murder came to light when the daughter of the deceased tried to call her mother and did not get any response. She rushed home to find her dead and valuables missing.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused and arrested him. The accused allegedly said that the victim was demanding and nagging and slapped him over a trivial row during his visit, and in a fit of rage, he strangled her to death.

The police are investigating further.

78-year-old dies during attempt to swim across Palk Strait

The Hindu Bureau
RAMESWARAM

Gopal Rao, 78, of Bengaluru, died of a heart attack while swimming from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi isle near Rameswaram on Tuesday.

He was part of a group of 31 swimmers who were participating in a relay swimming event from Sri Lanka to India through the Palk Strait. They had left for Sri Lanka by a boat on Monday.

At 12.10 a.m. on Tuesday, they began swimming from Talaimannar towards Dhanushkodi.

Gopal Rao, the third swimmer on the team, began feeling uneasy and complained of chest pain at 3.10 a.m.

He was immediately helped onto the boat, which was accompanying the swimmers. A doctor on the boat attended to him, and declared him dead after a while.

As a mark of respect, the other swimmers cancelled the relay event and reached Dhanushkodi by boat.

Case registered

The body was sent for post-mortem to Rameswaram Government Hospital.

The Rameswaram Town police have registered a case.

The swimmers had obtained all clearances from the Indian and Sri Lankan governments for the relay swimming event.

Mango orders can be placed on Karsiri

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karsiri, the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation's online portal, is back after a technology update and customers can now place their orders for mangos directly from the farmers and get it delivered to their doorstep.

The sale of mangos on the portal began on April 22 and over 154 farmer are selling more than 12 varieties of mangos.

Customers can place their orders on https://www.karsirimangoes.karnataka.gov.in/

Four pose as policemen, rob scrap dealer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Whitefield police have stepped up investigation to track down four men, who posed as policemen and assaulted and robbed ₹2 lakh from a scrap dealer threatening to arrest him for illegal activities.

The complainant, Aktir Ali Mondal, was a scrap dealer in Nallurahalli, Pattandur Agrhara, since eight years. He said that last Wednesday, four men in a car approached him in the shop and introduced themselves as policemen and accused him of running illegal business. They assaulted him and his employees when they tried to object and robbed ₹20,000 cash and forced him to transfer ₹80,000. They threatened to arrest him if he failed to pay up and took away his debit card and withdrew ₹50,000, he alleged. They came back the next day and returned the card and demanded more money and forced him to pay ₹50,000 cash and also threatened to take away his motorcycle, he said.

Mondal narrated the ordeal with his family and friends, who suggested him to approach the police.

House help arrested from A.P. for stealing valuables worth ₹50 lakh from employer's apartment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police arrested a 36-year-old domestic help who was allegedly on the run after stealing valuables worth ₹50 lakh from his employer's apartment in Doddanekundi on April 21.

The accused Surendra Kumar had allegedly escaped with the valuables after his employer Amith Jain and family had gone out of station. Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused to Vijayawada railway station in Andhra Pradesh and arrested him. He was trying to escape to his native with the valuables and after noticing the police, he tried to escape, but the police team caught him after a hot chase, a police officer said.

In another case, the Banaswadi police arrested two and held a juvenile for robbing a mobile phone from a security guard in HRBR Layout on the pretext on enquiring an address last Wednesday.

The accused Syed Afsar, 23, Syed Moin, 22, and the juvenile were caught based on the complaint lodged by Amar Bahadur, working as a security guard at a residential apartment in HRBR Layout.

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THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

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Please log on to www.tmbnet.in/tmb_careers
Thoothukudi 19.04.2024 — General Manager (HRDD)

KAMARAJAR PORT LIMITED
(A Company of Chennai Port Authority)
17, Rajaji Salai, Chennai – 600 001
CIN : U45203TN1999PLC043322
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For more details, please visit our website: www.kamarajarport.in
General Manager (CS & BD)
044-25251664

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INDUSTRIAL HEALTH CENTER, HAL(BC), SURANJANDAS ROAD, BANGALORE – 560 017
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SOAR TO GREAT HEIGHTS WITH HAL
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Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), a Navaratna Central Public Sector Undertaking, is a premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production/Overhaul/Service Divisions and 10 co-located R&D Centers spread across the Country. HAL is looking for MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS in the following disciplines for recruitment in HAL Industrial Health Center, Bangalore:
A. ON REGULAR BASIS / नियमित आधार पर

क्रम सं. Sl. No.	विज्ञापन संख्या Advertisement No.	पद का नाम Name of the Post	पदों की संख्या एवं आरक्षण No. of Posts & Reservation
1.	IHC/HR/25/09/2024	वरिष्ठ चिकित्सा अधिकारी (ईएनटी) Senior Medical Officer (ENT) (Gr-III)	1– आ. क. व. 1-EWS
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3.	IHC/HR/25/11/2024	वरिष्ठ चिकित्सा अधिकारी (औषधि) Senior Medical Officer (Medicine) (Gr-III)	1– अ.पि.व. (नॉ.क्री.ले.) 1- OBC(NCL)
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नोट: आ.क.व.: आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग, यूआर : अनारक्षित, अ. पि. व. (नॉ.क्री.ले.) –अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (गैर–क्रीमी लेयर)
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BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 24
RISE 06:02 SET 18:33
RISE 18:57 SET 06:02

THURSDAY, APR. 25
RISE 06:02 SET 18:34
RISE 19:49 SET 06:42

FRIDAY, APR. 26
RISE 06:01 SET 18:34
RISE 20:43 SET 07:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	36	26
Mysuru	36	25
Bengaluru	38	25

Bengaluru Today
37°C Weather will be dry. Morning will be comfortable Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night also will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be very warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will comfortable

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THE HINDU
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The fall in agricultural exports to the United States

8.8 in percentage. India's agriculture exports declined to $43.7 billion during April-February period of 2023-24 from $47.9 billion in 2022-23, due to factors such as Red Sea crisis, Russia-Ukraine war etc. PTI

The amount of military aid pledged by the U.K. for Ukraine

620 in $ million. The U.K. pledged an additional amount in new military supplies for Ukraine, including long-range missiles and four million rounds of ammunition. AP

Hydro-meteorological hazards to strike Asia in 2023

79 Floods and storms accounted for over 80% of hydro-meteorological incidents, resulting in over 2,000 fatalities, affecting nine million people in the region, as per the World Meteorological Organization. PTI

Stations with affordable meals for general class travellers

100 stations. Train passengers travelling in unreserved compartments will now get an economy meal for ₹20 and a snack meal for ₹50 at stations, according to Railway officials. PTI

Number of arms deposited in Himachal before Lok Sabha polls

70,343 The licenced arms have been deposited in order to ensure free and fair elections in the State. PTI

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An overview of the PMAY-U scheme

What are the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme? How has the in-situ slum redevelopment vertical under the scheme fared? Has the participation of the private sector in social housing been a success? What is the Centre's contribution to the overall investment expenditure?

EXPLAINER

Tikender Panwar

The story so far:

As the current Union government completes two terms, one of its flagship programmes was Housing For All (HfA) by 2022, both in urban and rural areas, planned under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) scheme in 2015.

What is the PMAY scheme?

While the PMAY is a centrally sponsored scheme both the Union and the State governments are supposed to financially contribute to it. The declared objectives of the scheme included rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation; promotion of affordable housing for the weaker sections through Credit Linked Subsidy Schemes (CLSS); affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors; and subsidy for Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC).

How has the scheme panned out?

Even though two more years have passed since the supposed completion of the scheme, HfA remains a distant reality. In August 2022, the government approved the continuation of the PMAY-Urban (PMAY-U) up to December 31, 2024, for the completion of already sanctioned houses till March 31, 2022.

Currently, according to the government's estimates, there is a shortage of around 20 million houses in rural areas and three million in urban centres. However, these figures do not speak of the actual reality. Till 2023, the urban shortfall was more than 60 lakh houses. According to a study by the ICRIER, urban housing shortage increased by 54%, from 1.88 crore in 2012 to 2.9 crore in 2018. Thus, the PMAY-U has actually faltered. Even according to data from the PMAY dashboard (as of April 15), there is a shortfall of around 40 lakh houses from the sanctioned and completed segments. This means that the vertical that is supposed to meet the largest demand, called in-situ slum redevelopment (ISSR), has failed. According to a PIB press release, under the ISSR, which is the most pressing need in cities, only 2,10,552 houses have been sanctioned for eligible beneficiaries. According to another report by *Newslaundry*, the PMAY-U has only addressed a 25.15% of the housing shortage by delivering 80 lakh homes. Even if the remaining houses sanctioned are constructed by the end of 2024, it would have addressed just about 37% of the real need. Almost 2.4 crore households will still be without a roof.

GETTY IMAGES

The current housing programme which was a kind of merger of the Rajiv Awas Yojana into the PMAY has spent over $29 billion in the last five years providing support for both rural and urban low-cost housing. Despite this focus and budgetary infusion, "Housing for All" remains an unfulfilled promise.

What ailed the PMAY?

The scheme is euphoric in the participation of the private sector in bridging the gap of public investments in social housing. The current estimates suggest that in the Indian urban landscape around 40% (according to the World Bank, 49%) of the people are living in both designated and informal slums. Hence, the success of the PMAY was dependent on addressing the housing question in the slums.

In some of the projects where spaces occupied by the slum dwellers were handed to private players, the vertical growth of such settlements created more problems for the residents rather than addressing them. Take for example a multi-storey building with the recurring cost of water, electricity and sewerage utilities which at times went beyond the scope of residents' expenditure. Building typologies and linear design with squeezed spaces dissuaded people from occupying such houses. Land was also a major issue. Land registered under airports, railways, forests, etc., was impossible for ISSR. Moreover, plans for ISSR were drawn up by consultants, without any role from the community.

Another major hurdle is the dichotomy existing between the city's master plans and PMAY-U. Most of the cities' plans are now being dictated by big consultants who favour large capital-intensive technological solutions. Take for example, the transit-oriented development models being advocated by the Delhi Development Authority in its 2041 master plan. It does not speak about social housing and states that this must come from market forces. In such a scenario, almost all verticals of PMAY fail.

It is worth noting that the Centre's contribution to the overall investment expenditure under this scheme is just about 25%, or ₹2.03 lakh crore. The bulk of the money is shelled out by the beneficiary households themselves, that is 60% or ₹4.95 lakh crore. State governments (together with Urban Local Bodies) spend ₹1.33 lakh crore on the scheme as well. The architecture of PMAY does not address the landless and the poor. Around 62% of the houses sanctioned come under the BLC vertical where the government's role is limited to just cost sharing with the beneficiaries. CLSS beneficiaries are supposed to be 21%. In both the above, the government has a limited role with just the provision for providing interest subsidy, whereas land is owned by the beneficiaries. Slum-dwelling families that are to be rehabilitated under ISSR make up just about 2.5% of the total beneficiaries.

The writer is former deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

- While the PMAY is a centrally sponsored scheme both the Union and the State governments are supposed to financially contribute to it.
- The current estimates suggest that in the Indian urban landscape around 40% (according to the World Bank, 49%) of the people are living in both designated and informal slums. Hence, the success of the PMAY was dependent on addressing the housing question in the slums.
- It is worth noting that the Centre's contribution to the overall investment expenditure under this scheme is just about 25%, or ₹2.03 lakh crore. The bulk of the money is shelled out by the beneficiary households themselves.

How is India planning to boost EV production?

How have domestic players reacted to the policy? How can electric vehicle adoption be upscaled?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

The Union government on March 15 approved a policy to promote India as a manufacturing hub for Electric Vehicles (EVs). The minimum investment cap has been set at ₹4,150 crore.

What does the policy stipulate?

The policy broadly clears the path for global EV makers like Tesla and Chinese EV maker BYD to foray into the Indian markets. The central goal of this policy is to enable transitioning to localised production in a commercially viable manner and plan as per local market conditions and demand. The most significant provision is the reduction of import duty on electric vehicles imported as a Completely Built Unit (CBU) with a minimum cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of $35,000 to 15% (for a five-year period) from the present 70%-100%. This is provided the maker sets up a manufacturing unit within three years. The policy also stipulates that a total duty of ₹6,484 crore or an amount proportional to the investment made – whichever is lower– would be waived on the total number of EVs imported. It must be noted that, a maximum of 40,000 EVs can be imported under the scheme at not more than 8,000 units a year, provided the minimum investment made is $800 million. Another important aspect of the scheme is localisation targets. Manufacturers have three years to set up their manufacturing facilities in India. They are expected to attain 25% localisation by the third year of incentivised operation and 50% by the fifth year. Should the localisation targets not be achieved, and if the minimum investment criteria as defined under the scheme is not meet , the bank guarantees of the manufacturers would be revoked.

What about domestic players?

Tata Motors, as reported by *Reuters* in December 2023, had opposed the Tesla proposal. It argued that lowering duties would hit the domestic industry and "the investment climate will get vitiated." Assessing the policy from the perspective of domestic players, Rajat Mahajan, Partner at Deloitte India told *The Hindu*, "Most Indian players are leading in the segments below ₹29 lakh as of now, and hence this policy benefit (from 15% import duty) will likely be for Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) catering to consumers in the higher end of the market." He added that the policy makes it lucrative for global EV players and Indian JVs with such players, to expand sales and manufacture in India.

How does it cater to Indian markets?

I.V. Rao, Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), thinks that global players in India must consider local circumstances, like the environment, roads, and usage conditions. Mr. Mahajan from Deloitte notes that while penetration in the two-and three-wheeler segment has been significant, passenger vehicles have seen only a 2.2% contribution thus far. "This is mainly due to lack of proper charging infrastructure, range anxiety, and limited number of products in the affordable range due to limited localisation," he observed. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in a July 2023 report had observed that India may require at least 13 lakh charging stations by 2030 to support "aggressive EV uptake."

Dinesh Abrol, retired professor at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development explained to *The Hindu* that the associated EV ecosystem must be made capable of addressing reliability and durability of components and service support. Mr. Abrol pointed to how Suzuki enhanced their control in their business partnership with Indian car maker Maruti, resulting in growth of imports. He added that liberalisation and globalisation currents acquiring increased hold of the components' manufacturing system altered its manufacturing priorities. He added that the 21st century cannot be guided only by notions of competitive products, instead, they must also be sustainable. "We need to focus on domestic demand to guide our product and system designs and business portfolios. Exports will follow, he said, adding that "appropriate product and system designs in case of two wheelers and three wheelers and four wheelers will have to guide PLI. Foreign capital would not easily meet this purpose. Indian manufacturers should be directed to this."

THE GIST

- The Union government on March 15 approved a policy to promote India as a manufacturing hub for Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- Tata Motors, as reported by *Reuters* in December 2023, had opposed the Tesla proposal. It argued that lowering duties would hit the domestic industry.
- I.V. Rao, Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), thinks that global players setting up shop in India must consider local circumstances, like the environment, roads, driving behaviour and usage conditions.

Nanjundi quits Council membership

Alleging that the BJP did not help his community in any way, MLC and Vishwakarma leader K.P. Nanjundi resigned from the Legislative Council membership on Tuesday by submitting his resignation letter to Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti in Hubballi. He is set to join the Congress on Wednesday. Mr. Nanjundi said that when he left the Congress to join the BJP, he had a lot of hopes that the party would do something for the community and had toured the entire State along with party leader B.S. Yediyurappa. "Although they made me a Council member, none of the demands of the community were met," he said. The ₹1,000-core assistance promised for the community did not come and no ministership was offered, he said.

K.P. Nanjundi submitting his resignation letter to Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti in Hubballi on Tuesday. KIRAN BAKALE

Deve Gowda sheds tears; DKS questions why

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy CM, on Wednesday asked why former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda had to shed tears "as it was Congress which had made him the Prime Minister".

Mr. Gowda, at Sattigarahalli in Holenarasipur taluk, had wept, while talking about the travails of the farming community. He had said that during his tenure as PM, he had given importance to irrigation and people should understand his contribution.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence on Wednesday, Mr. Shivakumar said, "I don't know why Mr. Gowda is shedding tears. Congress made him the PM. It is not Hassan district which made him the Chief Minister but Ramanagara and Bengaluru Rural districts. No matter what he does, JD(S) will not win any seat."

> It is the BJP govt. led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has taken away the ornaments of Bharat Mata and sold them to private entities.
>
> **H.K. PATIL,** Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs

Public campaign to end today in 14 constituencies

As per the rules of the Election Commission of India, the public campaign for the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 14 constituencies of Karnataka on Friday will end on Wednesday evening.

All public meetings by political parties, rallies, etc. will have to end by 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

> This is a period of drought for the people of Karnataka. However, for Congress leaders, it is a golden opportunity to fill their coffers.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** JD(S) leader and former CM

A delegation met with the CEO, Karnataka, and handed over a complaint and copies of the Preamble of the Constitution and the Model Code of Conduct. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Civil society groups seek action from ECI against Modi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Civil society organisations submitted a complaint to the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, on Tuesday to demand immediate and strict action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "divisive and hateful remarks" against the Muslim community during his election campaign in Rajasthan.

The delegation, which sought action against Mr. Modi "for spreading false information", met with the CEO and handed over a complaint, and copies of the Preamble of the Constitution and the Model Code of Conduct.

They demanded that in compliance with laws and guidelines, the Election Commission of India take immediate action to disqualify Mr. Modi and ban his election campaign. They also demanded that an FIR be immediately registered against Mr. Modi invoking penal provisions regarding hate speech and disrupting communal harmony.

The Prime Minister not only made false and provocative statements but promoted dangerous stereotypes of Muslims to incite hatred and garner Hindu votes, they said.

"What we did today was a part of a call for various states to do it. In different states such as Maharashtra and Rajasthan, other civil society groups and activists are also doing the same," said Aishwarya R., general secretary, PUCL-Bangalore to *The Hindu*. According to the delegation, Manoj Kumar Meena, CEO, Karnataka, said he can only forward the memoranda and plaints to the ECI. Any other action was beyond his jurisdiction.

DKS: People who want me to be CM won't be disappointed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Old Mysore region where Vokkaligas are a dominant community goes to polls in another two days, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Tuesday that people who want him to be Chief Minister "won't be disappointed". "I know you want me to become the Chief Minister. Your hopes won't be belied. Vote for the son of your house. I will serve you," he said. Mr. Shivakumar was campaigning in Harohalli, Bengaluru Rural constituency, for his brother D.K. Suresh.

The statement comes amidst a coalition between the JD(S), said to be a predominantly Vokkaliga party, and the BJP for the Lok Sabha elections. Mr. Shivakumar, KPCC president, claimed the CM's post in 2023 after the party won a big majority of 135 seats. However, Mr. Siddaramaiah was elected CM. Speculations are rife that there will be a leadership change midway through the Assembly term. Several close associates of the Chief Minister have campaigned in the ongoing Parliamentary polls saying that a good show by the Congress in the State would ensure Mr. Siddaramaiah continuing as Chief Minister for the full term.

Siddaramaiah leads symbolic protest against delay in drought relief by Centre

During a hearing of the case in the Supreme Court on the issue, the Union government sought a week to provide drought relief to the State

CENTRAL AID

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah led a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises against delay in drought relief by the Centre on Tuesday. He asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "to go back from the State", till they provide drought relief.

Mr. Shah was Karnataka on Tuesday holding a road show in the Bengaluru South constituency.

During a hearing of the case filed by the Government of Karnataka in the Supreme Court over the issue, the Union government sought a week's time to provide drought relief to the State on Monday.

'Forced take case to SC'

Speaking on this, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Our fight in the Supreme Court and Union government finally relenting and promising drought relief is a testament to Congress's commitment to the State's interests." He added that the "injustice and delay tactics" of the Union government had forced the State government to approach the Supreme Court.

"We have declared drought in 223 of 240 taluks in the State in September, 2023. There is crop loss in 48 lakh hectares. Despite submitting a memorandum for drought relief in October last year itself, the Union government is yet to act on it. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has lied to the people saying we are seeking funds for guarantee schemes. We have self-financed our welfare schemes and are not seeking a single rupee from the Centre for the same," he said.

AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka affairs Randeep Surjewala, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and Energy Minister K.J. George were among others present at the protest.

'BJP unable to digest'

Speaking on the issue Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "The Supreme Court has given us justice and the Centre has agreed to provide drought relief. BJP has launched an advertising campaign that Congress was picking the pockets of the people in drought relief. But it is the BJP which is picking the pockets of the people and blaming it on Congress. We have reduced electricity charges and are providing up to 200 units of electricity for free; the BJP is unable to digest this."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress leaders staging a protest against the Union government on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BJP demands suspension of CS for allowing protest at State Secretariat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has petitioned the Election Commission seeking the suspension of Karnataka Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goel for "allowing the premises of Vidhana Soudha, the State Secretariat, to be used for political purposes by the ruling Congress against the spirit of the Model Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha polls."

A BJP delegation led by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok submitted the petition to the Election Commission in which the party accused Mr. Goel of "acting as per the wish of the Congress government." Mr. Ashok took exception to the ruling Congress leaders including AICC General Secretary Randeep Surjewala and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah staging a protest at the secretariat.

Pointing out that the matter was before the Supreme Court, he also questioned the propriety of holding the protest at this juncture. He alleged that the Congress was only trying to mislead the voters in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls through such a protest "by projecting the Centre in poor light."

The BJP also filed another complaint before the Election Commission in which it urged the Commission to register a case against Congress top leaders Mr. Surjewala, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for their alleged mala fide intention in showing the Centre in poor light at the time of polls. It sought that they be barred from taking up any public campaign for the Lok Sabha polls.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ashok took exception to the Congress terming the Centre's statement before the Supreme Court that it would resolve the drought worries of Karnataka within a week as a "victory" to its legal fight. He argued that the Centre, which had been stating that the drought relief issue was before the Election Commission, had only reiterated its position.

'Will complete Yettinahole, tertiary treatment of K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley projects, if elected'

'With regard to the PM, the people of Chickballapur know that they have been neglected and this won't do anymore'

INTERVIEW

Raksha Ramaiah

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Raksha Ramaiah, from the influential M.S. Ramaiah family that runs many educational institutes and hospitals in Bengaluru and Chickballapur districts, is the Congress candidate for Chickballapur Lok Sabha seat. *The Hindu* caught up with him for a chat ahead of polling day on Friday.

Excerpts from the conversation:

This is the first time you are contesting. How has the response been to your campaign?

It was a very late decision by the party to field me. I have got 24 days for my campaign and we have covered all the constituencies. But our family has had a long relationship with the district. The rural voters are firmly with the Congress party.

So do you see a schism between rural and urban voters?

Congress has its core base among rural voters. Its urban base has slightly drifted away to the BJP due to the Modi factor. We are working to counter BJP's support base even among urban voters. Our guarantee schemes have brought in a real change and will work for us.

With regard to the Prime Minister, the people of Chickballapur know that they have been neglected and this won't do anymore. Despite electing 25 BJP MPs, the people have seen that the Chief Minister and his entire Cabinet had to go to Delhi to raise the State's concerns. Drinking water and irrigation are the biggest issues in the district. In the last 10 years of NDA rule, the Yettinahole project has been stuck owing to National Green Tribunal (NGT) hurdles and we haven't got any water. That is our main concern, not Narendra Modi.

Former Congress MP Veerappa Moily won two elections on the promise of Yettinahole project and is criticised for doing little. There are concerns about the Congress government's K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley projects that have brought water to the district's lakes. How do you address these criticisms?

Hurdles in the NGT and the courts are the primary reasons for work on the Yettinahole project being stopped. Moily *saab* has done his work. He ensured the project takes off Thousands of crores have been poured into this project.

K.C. Valley and H.N. Valley projects are game changers as hundreds of lakes have been filled. Yes, tertiary treatment is pending. We implemented these projects during the previous Congress regime. BJP was in power for four years, when they could have done tertiary treatment, but did not. If I win, I promise to complete all three projects within five years.

There is an undertone to this election that it is slowly emerging that this is a Vokkaliga versus Ahinda election.

Unfortunately, that is the kind of fight our opponent [Dr. D Sudhakar] wants to build. But the community also remembers his role in bringing down a Vokkaliga Chief Minister in 2019. We are working to gain the support of all communities.

What is your vision for Chickballapur Lok Sabha constituency, if you win this poll battle?

We are slightly backward in education, compared to other districts. Our female literacy rates are lower. We want to make Chickballapur a 100% literate district. The fluoride water problem is there which has led to an upsurge in various kinds of cancers. We plan to take out campaigns, reach out to villages, conduct camps and provide quality healthcare.

Chickballapur is one of the largest producers of flowers in the country. We want to make it the flower capital of the country, providing all necessary infrastructure. These, apart from water, will be my areas of focus.

M.S. Raksha Ramaiah, Congress candidate for Chickballapur Lok Sabha seat. K. MURALI KUMAR

Complimentary food: HC gives nod with a rider

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday permitted the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association to providing food either for free or at discounted rate for those who cast their vote in the ensuing elections to Lok Sabha subject to condition that they are liable for legal action by the authorities if they violate the Model Code of Conduct or any other law in the process of offering complementary food.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by the association complaining that the election authorities have failed to consider several representations seeking permission to provide complimentary food for free to the voters to increase the voting percentage in Bengaluru city.

Pointing out that the court had last year permitted the association to offer complimentary food to voters subject to certain conditions, the association has said that it has given an undertaking to the election authorities to obey all the conditions imposed by the court last year for offering free food to encourage people to cast their votes as the city witnesses low voter turnout in elections.

CSDS-LOKNITI

Analysing digital ad campaigns during the silence period of the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections

Section 126 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 prohibits the display of election matter to the public during the 48-hour silence period. Despite clear rules, a study conducted by the CSDS-Lokniti has found political parties to be spending substantial money on advertising campaigns on social media during this time

Sanjay Kumar
Aditi Singh
Abhishek Sharma
Hana Vahab
Subhayan Acharya Majumdar

As the world's largest elections are underway, all eyes are on digital platforms and the role they are playing in influencing the electorate. However, it may also be time to consider and question the effectiveness of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) set down by the Election Commission (EC) in ensuring free and fair elections in India.

Section 126 of the Representation of People Act, 1951 prohibits the display of election matter to the public through television or similar apparatus during the 48-hour silence period ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of polls. The EC in its various notifications has clarified that 'similar apparatus' under Section 126 includes social media as well. Despite clear rules prohibiting political campaigning during the silence period, a study conducted by the CSDS-Lokniti has found political parties to be spending substantial money on advertising campaigns on social media during this time.

Social media campaigns

It was found that BJP posted 60,500 ads from April 17 to 19, 2024 on Google and 6,808 on Meta platforms, while the Congress posted 1,882 and 114 ads respectively during the same period (Table 1). This revelation is note-worthy since the Internet penetration in India is over 50%.

Out of the total ads posted from April 17 to 19 on Google, 500 ads, 250 ads posted by the BJP and another 250 posted by the Congress, were selected for analysis using randomised selection. Out of this sample, 64 ads posted by the BJP and 32 posted by the Congress were found to be targeted to States/constituencies that voted in the first phase of elections (Table 2).

This study revealed that 13 out of every 50 ads of the BJP were aired during the silence period in constituencies participating in the first phase of elections. Notably, political ads were observed in 11 States and Union Territories preceding the first phase of elections, with several States being majorly targeted (Table 3). This data underscores the strategic placement and targeting of political advertisements during critical phases of the electoral process. Of the total number of Congress ads, States voting in the first phase of elections were targeted as a whole. However, except for Haldwani in the Nainital constituency in Uttarakhand, no other Congress ads specifically micro-targeted any poll-bound constituencies during the silence period (Table 3).

The strategy of geotargeting

During the silence period, the BJP's digital campaign showcased an impressive level of location based targeting precision, evident in its focus on specific locales such as a panchayat in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, and Belthangadi in Karnataka. These instances provide just a glimpse into the party's widespread use of tailored strategies. Additionally, the BJP targeted the Nagina constituency in Uttar Pradesh with a substantial number of advertisements during this crucial period, recognising the historical significance of the Muslim-Scheduled Caste (SC) combination in securing victories in this constituency (Table 4). However, the northeastern region remained largely overlooked throughout the silence period.

The Congress avoided constituency-level targeting. In fact, 42% of Congress ads specifically excluded the poll bound constituencies from the targeted States which went for polls in the first phase. All the constituencies in Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar and Chhattisgarh which voted on April 19 were excluded in the ads posted by the Congress in these States. Similarly, in ads targeted to Madhya Pradesh, all poll-bound constituencies, except Sidhi, were excluded. Unlike the BJP, the Congress was found to be vigilant in its presence across Manipur with a major chunk of its targeted ads focusing on all the major themes during the period of analysis (Table 3 and 5).

The Meta campaign

In the case of Meta, the parent organisation of both Instagram and Facebook, both the BJP and Congress are seen to have run ad campaigns during the first phase of the election. This analysis is based on their official social media handles.

Unlike Google ads, none of the ads on Meta platforms were pin code-specific. Still, they were State-specific, stating that ad campaigns operating in a particular State apply to the territorial area of the whole State, including those constituencies involved in the first phase of elections. Of the 6,808 ads posted by the BJP, several ads were circulated in more than one State. For Congress, which posted 114 ads during this time, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and U.P. were the main targets (Table 6).

This data throws light on the ad campaigns by the two major parties on Meta from April 17 to 19, the official silence period for the first phase of the election.

There is a clear lead by the BJP in the sheer number of ads posted. There is also a more diversified campaign from the BJP, in contrast to the Congress, as can be evident from the language in which the ads are posted. The BJP has posted ads in more than seven languages, while the Congress has posted only in three.

In the lead-up to the first phase of elections, it became apparent that political parties are stretching the boundaries of the MCC, particularly through digital media ad campaigns. There seems to be a lack of preventive as well as punitive actions taken to address such violations, raising questions about the effectiveness of the MCC in ensuring free and fair elections.

By utilising location-based targeting in digital campaigns and focusing on key locales, it seems that parties may have found ways to reach voters during a period when campaigning is restricted.

As the second phase of Lok Sabha elections approaches, it may be worth considering these observations regarding adherence to the MCC.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at CSDS, Aditi Singh is an Assistant Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, and Abhishek Sharma, Hana Vahab, Subhayan Acharya Majumdar are researchers with Lokniti-CSDS.

The digital battlefield

Social media has become a key medium through which political campaigns reach and influence the electorate. However, one must also question the effectiveness of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) set down by the Election Commission (EC) in ensuring free and fair elections in India

Table 1: Total ads posted and corresponding money spent by the BJP and Congress from April 17 to 19

In the silence period	BJP		Congress	
	Google	Meta	Google	Meta
Total ads posted	60,500	6,808	1,882	114
Total money spent	₹15,682,000	NA**	₹18,848,500	NA**

***Meta does not provide cumulative spending on ads.*
Source: Google Ad Transparency Centre and Meta Ad Transparency Report

Table 2: Ads violating the MCC during the silence period and corresponding amount spent on such ads

Out of the analysed ads**	BJP* (250 ads)	Congress* (250 ads)
Ads violating the MCC	64 (26%)	32
Money spent on ads violating the MCC	100% of the ads were upto 10k	-78% of the ads were upto 10k -16% of the ads were above 10k

** figures are rounded off. ** Total 500 ads were analysed, 250 each of the BJP and Congress*

Table 3: The States where major chunk of the ads were posted by the BJP and Congress during the silence period and the percentage of ads in the constituencies which went for polling in the first phase

Party	States with major chunk of ads (went for polls in the first phase)	Ads in constituencies which went for polls in the first phase	The constituencies targeted (went for polls in the first phase)
BJP (64 ads)*	Uttar Pradesh	27 (42%)	Moradabad (78%) Nagina (15%) Bijnor (7%)
	Rajasthan	9 (14%)	Jaipur (89%) Karauli-Dholpur (11%)
	Bihar	17 (27%)	Jamui (76%) Gaya (24%)
Congress (32 ads) *	Manipur	15 (47%)	The whole State was targeted
	Maharashtra	7 (21%)	The whole State was targeted
	Jammu Kashmir	6 (19%)	The whole State was targeted

** figures are rounded off*

Table 4: The State/constituency targeted by the BJP and the corresponding themes of ads within such constituencies during the silence period

Party	State/Constituency targeted (Went for polls in the first phase)	Themes of ads
BJP (64 ads)	Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)	-Benefits of the Kisan Samman Nidhi (farmers) -India as a semiconductor hub -On defense production
	Nagina (Uttar Pradesh)	-PM Awas Yojana -India as a semiconductor hub
	Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh)	Free ration
	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	Attack on terrorism
	Karauli-Dholpur (Rajasthan)	Free ration
	Jamui (Bihar)	-Law on paper leak -PM Awas Yojana
	Gaya (Bihar)	-India on the south pole of the Moon -Benefits of the Kisan Samman Nidhi (farmers)

Table 5: The State/constituency targeted by the Congress and the corresponding themes of ads within such constituencies during the silence period

Party	State/Constituency targeted (Went for polls in the first phase)	Themes of ads
Congress (32 ads)	Manipur	-30 lakh jobs guaranteed for the youth -One lakh grant for women from poor households -Permanent job for graduates -50% reservation for women in government jobs
	Nainital (Uttarakhand) Bihar	Congress's promise to farmers: loan waiver, legal MSP, GST-free
	Jammu Kashmir Assam	-30 lakh jobs guaranteed for the youth -One lakh grant for women from poor households
	Maharashtra Bihar	Criticising unemployment
	Karauli-Dholpur (Rajasthan)	Free ration
	Jamui (Bihar)	-Law on paper leak -PM Awas Yojana
	Gaya (Bihar)	-India on the south pole of the Moon -Benefits of the Kisan Samman Nidhi (Farmers)

Table 6: The top three States Meta ads targeted from April 17 to April 19

BJP	Number of ads	Congress	Number of ads
Uttar Pradesh	2,563	Tamil Nadu	26
Rajasthan	1,667	Chhattisgarh	17
Madhya Pradesh	1,604	U.P.	17

The list also has other States that are not mentioned here

Table 7: Content discussed in the ads

Congress	BJP
- ₹1 lakh annual maintenance for women	- Modi's guarantee is more assured than a guarantee of a helmet, longevity of a tattoo, and assurance of a groom with hair.
- 30 lakh job opportunities for youth	- Pakka house for the poor, and the poor should be free from poverty
- Legal guarantee of MSP, loan waiver	- In Jammu and Kashmir, there is no more stone pelting, and it is developing. The government is suppressing national security enemies
	- India is the fastest growing economy, with Modi organising the G20 successfully
	- Modi improved women's rights and guaranteed it

During the silence period, the BJP's digital campaign showcased an impressive level of location-based targeting, evident in its focus on specific locales such as a panchayat in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, and Belthangadi in Karnataka

THE DAILY QUIZ

Jersey number 10 is associated with one man in Indian cricket. As Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his 51st Birthday today, a quiz on him and his career

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Sachin has played in international matches in 105 grounds across the world. In how many countries did he do so?

QUESTION 2
At which venue/ground has Sachin scored the most international runs?

QUESTION 3
Sachin has taken two five wicket hauls in ODIs, both at the same venue. Which venue is it?

QUESTION 4
Sachin became the first overseas player to play for this county in the English county championship. Which county and when?

QUESTION 5
Sachin has scored 34,357 international runs. If we consider the numbers between 0 and 100 as runs in an innings, Sachin's scores did not include just two numbers. What are they?

QUESTION 6
Among the 185 century partnerships in which Sachin was involved in international cricket, with whom did he share the most number of such partnerships?

Visual question:
Identify these players and connect them with one of Sachin's glorious feats.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The reason why April 23 was chosen to be the English Language Day. **Ans: It is traditionally considered as the birth and death day of William Shakespeare**
2. In the English language, this is the most common consonant. **Ans: 'R'**
3. This person invented words like alligator, manager and obscene. **Ans: William Shakespeare**
4. These are 'crutch words'. **Ans: Words one uses repeatedly to pause or think or make up a sentence**
5. 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' is a _____. **Ans: Pangram**
6. The longest English word. **Ans: Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilico-volcanoconiosis**
7. This word is considered by leading philologists as having 645 versions in its verb form. **Ans: Run**
Visual: Name this British lexicographer. **Ans: Sir James Murray**
Early Bird: Benedict. B. Chao

Kannada literary tradition always questioned the mainstream, says poet Mamta Sagar

Though she wanted to become a doctor like her mother in her early years, she was soon drawn into the world of literature, especially Kannada literature while she was in college

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

On her birthday, January 19, Mamta Sagar received a phone call. The call brought her news that she thinks of as "the biggest gift" she has received: she was informed that she had been nominated for the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers (WOW). "That was beautiful," says the Bengaluru-based Kannada poet and activist.

Yet another gift came her way a couple of months later when she found out that she had actually won the award. She still sounds incredulous about having won it. "When my name was announced, it took me a few seconds to realise that it had been called," admits Sagar, who received the award in Abuja, Nigeria on April 6.

What makes the victory even sweeter, she says, is that the award was given in Nigeria, which shares a lot in common with India, particularly in the socio-political and gender realms. "The pain, happiness, belonging and community feeling...is so similar to what we go through," says Sagar, who serves as the Head of Studies in the Creative Writing Programme, Media Arts and Sciences, at the Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru.

She also admits to being thrilled that the Nigerian playwright and novelist, Wole Soyinka, winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature, was also honoured at the same event. "This has gone into history with Wole Soyinka," she says, with a smile. "I am really proud and happy that as a Kannada writer, I was instrumental in bringing this big award to India and Karnataka."

Mamta Sagar at an event where she received the World Literary Prize from the World Organization of Writers in Abuja, Nigeria.

Mamta Sagar

The gold medal she recieved at WOW.

Sagar grew up in the city of Sagara in Karnataka's Shivamogga district, over 350 km away from Bengaluru. As a young girl, she was somewhat dismissive of the Kannada language. "Like any privileged person, I studied in English medium and never considered Kannada as an important thing," she says. "I was even a class leader who fined people ten paise when they spoke Kannada," she recalls.

Falling in love with Kannada

By high school, however, something changed in her. "I started relishing Kannada...fell in love with its musicality and politics," says Sagar, who found herself being drawn to the work of writers like Vaidehi, U.R. Ananthamurthy, Shivaram Karanth and Kumvempu. There was one other aspect of Kannada writing that drew her to it. Like all Dravidian literature, it had always resisted Aryan influences, "which were always very patriarchal," she says.

Members of Adivasi Alemari, Dalit and Back Word Classes Forum, and Federation of Dalit Organisations took out a rally during the CAA protest on January 26, 2020. FILE PHOTO

This Kannada literary tradition, "which questioned the mainstream, whatever the mainstream was", played a significant role in shaping her own political and literary leanings. According to her, Kannada poets like Pampa, Ranna and Kumara Vyasa had created versions of the epics in Kannada with bhakti as a motif.

"For them villains were heroes and heroes became villains, giving a different perspective of the character altogether," she says. Immersing herself in this tradition helped her understand the underlying politics of the mainstream: "how people can be misrepresented because of their colour, language, region."

Kannada Riyaz

Though she wanted to become a doctor like her mother in her early years, she was soon drawn into the world of literature and opted to major in journalism, psychology and English at the NMKRV College for Women in Jayanagar, Bengaluru. "I had already started writing by the 12th standard," she says, recalling the first poem, which was about an intercommunal love affair, written when she was 16.

Gauri Lankesh

At college, however, a major realisation dawned on her. "I could read English well, already. But if not trained in Kannada, I would not be able to (become a Kannada writer)," says Sagar, who surreptitiously changed her major to Kannada, without even discussing this decision with anyone at home. "I took time to practice, read and write Kannada," she remembers, recalling loudly reciting Kannada poetry around the house to learn the language better. "For my poetry, to riyaz in Kannada was important. This is what I did."

Today, she chooses to compose all her creative work in Kannada alone. She sees it as her way of challenging the linguistic hegemony of English.

"We Indians and (people from) many other countries colonised by the British, tend to think through English," she says. But she firmly believes that this is a big mistake.

Giving up on your own language, she believes, means that you are not rooted and are disconnected from your immediate environment. "Every language has an innate musicality, and it is important for people to live in that language."

Poetry and politics

Sagar's writing is deeply political, tackling issues of human rights, marginalised communities, feminism, the politics of the female body, social justice and democracy, among others. "It is important to have your politics. The minute you write, it is political," she says. This was not always so, however. "Feminism drew me into politics. Along with that, the whole Dalit movement was happening," she points out. The whole notion of feminism as well as the Dalit movement put together taught her new lessons. "My generation grew up with that. That helped us to think beyond simply poetry. It gave us a perspective of politics within poetry," she says.

It got her to start questioning herself, forcing her to think about what she wanted to talk about. "As they say in feminism, the personal is political. That is what makes me write the way I write. My poetry is very personal as well as very political," says Sagar, the author of four collections of poems, four plays, an anthology of published columns, a collection of critical essays in Kannada and English on gender, language, literature and culture and a book titled 'Slovenian-Kannada Literature Interactions' so far.

Currently, she is working on another book of poetry, though she isn't sure when it will come out. "I am a very slow writer, take a very long time. I believe that poetry happens in editing not writing," she says, adding that she believes in chiselling down the words such that sound, meaning and context come together.

She is also actively involved in numerous international translation projects, collaborating with poets worldwide to translate their poems into Kannada, while retaining the musicality of the original language. "It is a creative process. You don't replicate the original, you recreate it anew," says Sagar, who received the Bhasha Bharati Translation Award in 2019.

As someone deeply passionate about using poetry for her activism, she actively strives to take it into public space. Some of these initiatives include her writing poetry on the walls of metro stations, a music video of her poem *For Gauri* to mark the brutal murder of the journalist, Gauri Lankesh, and a Kannada translation of Faiz's *Hum Dekhenge,* which was recited at the anti-CAA protests in Bengaluru. "Sometimes, you can't say things openly, you will be targeted," she says. "Poetry is very powerful. It is a soft tool, but a sharp one that can cut through anything."

Finland invites Indian tech talent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Finland, voted the World's Happiest Country for the seventh year, is welcoming talented Indians to launch or reestablish their careers in "one of the most attractive countries to work in".

This endeavour took center stage at the Great Indian Developer Summit (GIDS) in Bengaluru, where Finland aims to position itself as the premier destination for ICT and Tech innovation, with a keen focus on talent mobility, business growth, and start-up ecosystem development.

According to a press release, the event is set to showcase Finland's thriving tech landscape, and will offer attendees valuable insights into the country's supportive infrastructure for start-ups and the plethora of career opportunities available in the IT sector. Through informative sessions and networking opportunities, participants will gain a deeper understanding of Finland's vibrant tech ecosystem and its potential for collaboration and growth.

Despite being a small Nordic country, Finland boasts a thriving start-up ecosystem.

IIMB and TBS host eighth edition of International Conference on Future of Aviation and Aerospace

The conference had keynote addresses and six expert panels on subjects, ranging from MROs to drones

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dignitaries at the event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Over 300 senior executives from the aerospace and aviation sector participated in the 2024 edition of the International Conference on the Future of Aviation and Aerospace, hosted by IIM Bangalore and Toulouse Business School France, recently. The conference had keynote addresses and six expert panels on subjects, ranging from MROs to drones to talent management in the aviation sector.

The first panel on 'The Impact of Macroeconomic Environment on Aviation and Aerospace' featured Prof. Chetan Subramanian, RBI Chair Professor of Economics at IIMB, Dr. Srinivasan Dwarakanath, Former CEO & MD, Airbus India Operations, and Kallappa Pattada, Executive Director, Boeing India Engineering.

In his presentation on the macroeconomic view, Prof. Subramanian highlighted some of the headwinds like COVID, inflation caused by shortage of supply, wars and elections, and their connection with the aviation sector. Dr. Dwarkanath discussed the impact of black swan events like COVID, geopolitical challenges, currency rate, and regulatory environment on growth in the aerospace and aviation sector, said a release.

The panel on the 'Future of Global and Local Aviation Market' featured Dr. Srinivasan Dwarkanath, Former CEO & MD, Airbus India Operations, and Sunil Bhaskaran, Director, Air India Aviation Academy, and was moderated by Prof. S. Raghunath.

Data and analysis

Sunil Bhaskaran, who spoke of the trends that will define the shape of the airline industry in the years to come, listed customer-centricity, data and analytics, sustainability, distribution capability, fleet and network, alliances and partnerships, and talent.

Amber Dubey, Senior Advisor, McKinsey & Company, and the man who piloted the drone policy for India as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India, commented, "The drone sector has grown exponentially, especially for use in agriculture. We were aiming at '*har haath mein phone; har khet mein drone*'. Women practising agriculture in villages are given training free of cost and incentivized to use this technology.

The biggest benefit of drones is the ability to supply medicines in remote areas. But the biggest issue continues to be with security and tracking."

Disruptive technologies

The panel on 'Fly Net Zero by 2050' featured Chris Krishnaswamy, Systems Engineering Principal (Digital 145), Sasikumar Muthusamy, Senior Director, Global Engineering at Collins Aerospace, and Uma Maheshwar, Chief Consulting Engineer, GE Aerospace Engineering India, who discussed the challenges that disruptive technologies must overcome to reach net zero goals.

The other two panel discussions included, 'High Stakes in the Sky' and 'The Era of the Evolved Employee.'

Among the other dignitaries were the Consul General of France Thierry Berthelot, Prof. Christopher Benaroya, from Toulouse Business School France.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 24, 1974

Cong Wins Gulbarga Seat

Bangalore, April 23: The Congress registered a landslide victory in the byelection to the Lok Sabha from Gulbarga when its candidate, Mr. Siddarama Reddy defeated his nearest Congress (O) rival, Mr. Chandrasekhar Reddy Madana Deshmukh, by a margin of 87,701 votes to-night.

The Congress thus not only retained the seat but also avenged its defeat in the hands of Congress (O) in the last three byelections to the State Assembly.

The Gulbarga by-election was necessitated by the death of Mr. Dharmarao Afzalpurkar. The polling was held on April 21. While Mr. Siddarama Reddy secured 1,79,374 votes, Mr. Chandrasekhar Reddy Madana Deshmukh polled 91,583 votes in a six cornered contest.

Crop Insurance Scheme to be Introduced

Bangalore, April 23: The Agriculture Minister Mr. N. Chikkegowda informed the Karnataka Assembly to-day that the Government had proposed to introduce crop insurance schemes in the State and had already initiated steps.

Mr. Gowda who was replying to the discussion on the demands relating to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development said, the Government was in correspondence with Life Insurance Corporation on the Crop Insurance scheme. The matter had also been taken up with the Centre. The House later voted on the demands amounting to over Rs. 22 crores.

He said a team of top State officials would visit Washington by the end of this month for a final round of discussion with the Work Bank on the Rs. 46 crore cattle development scheme.

Together again

Sachin Vaali makes his directorial debut with *Sathya S/O Harishchandra*, which brings actors Nirup Bhandari and Sai Kumar on screen after a decade

Shilpa Anandraj

Sathya S/O Harishchandra... My father... My Villain, directed by debutant Sachin Vaali, features Nirup Bhadari and Sai Kumar who set the screen on fire with their stellar performances nearly a decade ago with *Rangi Taranga*.

The title of the film, Sachin says has nothing to do with the story of king Sathya Harishchandra. "I felt the title was apt for this story as it deals with the aspect of truth and lies. The film revolves around the relationship between a father (Harishchandra) and his son (Sathya) and how their love turns into hate. Their ideologies are different and the story is a constant clash between the world of truth and lies."

The film's shooting is complete and is now in the post production stage, says Sachin, who adds "The film is shot extensively in Thirthahalli, Channagiri, Shivamogga and we are headed to Mysuru, Ramanagara and Bengaluru for the second schedule."

Sachin has written the story. "I developed the screenplay and dialogues with Nirup. He has been supportive of me. Though he is a big name in the industry, he took time off to sit with me, encouraged me and helped write dialogues for the film."

When Sachin first saw Nirup in *Rangi Taranga*, he was impressed with his performance. "Later he did a few commercial films and I knew he is an actor who can pull off any look or character on screen with ease. Besides all these factors, he suits the character of Sathya. I also believe he has not portrayed a role like Sathya before on screen. I am thrilled to make this film with him."

Sai Kumar agreeing to come on board, was an added bonus, Sachin says. "Now we have two powerful actors facing off on screen. The narrative pits them against each other. It is also a huge responsibility for me as a newcomer to have such stars act in my film. They have put faith in my work and story, which gives me the jitters as well! I also am grateful to my producer, who has put his faith in me implicitly."

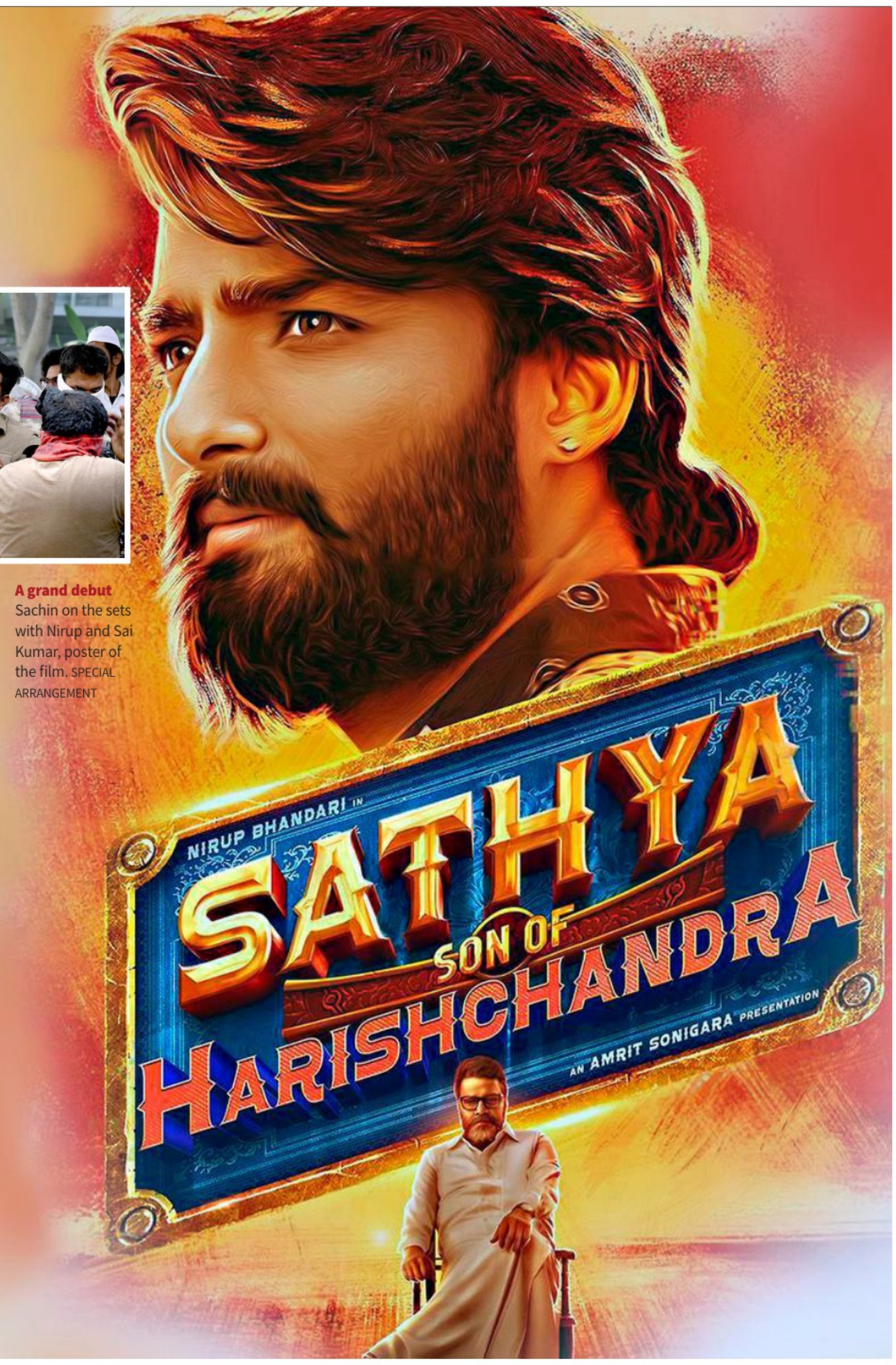
Sachin had no connection with the film industry. "I come from an agricultural background from a tiny village in Davangere. I did not know anyone from films. One January morning, in 2018, I decided to come to Bengaluru and make a film. After knocking on many doors, director Chandrashekar Bandiappa (known for films like *Aane Pataaki* and *Rathavara*), took me under his wing."

After working with the veteran director on a couple of films, Sachin says he had the confidence to work with a few other directors. "Finally I felt I could branch out independently. *Sathya S/O...* is my debut venture as a writer-director."

Grateful to having worked with the people from the industry, Sachin says he learnt from every one. "Each one has inspired me with the way they think, their process of working and their creativity to become what I am."

The film features Brinda Acharya, Ankita Amar, Swathi Gurudutt, MK Mata, and Chetan Durga. It is produced by Ankket Sonigara, with Prashant Mulage as the co-producer. Sandeep Valluri is the cinematographer and Sachin Basrur composes the music for the film.

The film according to Sachin is a comedy-action-drama. "I describe it as a family entertainer."



A grand debut Sachin on the sets with Nirup and Sai Kumar, poster of the film. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EATING OUT

Touring the Orient one dish at a time

Ruth Dhanaraj

If the words *tom kha* and *teriyaki, sambal* and Sichuan, *sui mai* and *nasi goreng*, conjure up a vision of a smorgasbord that is the Far East, then IZA should be on your bucket list. But, I am getting ahead of myself.

IZA is at Divyasree and once you get your bearings and step in, you will find it is a well-done space where both large parties and intimate gatherings will feel at home. Apparently, IZA is short for 'Izakaya,' which is Japanese for stay-drink-place; it is an invitation to get comfortable with food, family friends, and that is exactly what we see unfolding around us.

Being a pan-Asian restaurant, the offerings at IZA are plenteous and diverse – the only problem you would face is trying to decide what to choose. Apart from the small eats and starters, the dim sums, *baos* and grills get a separate section of the menu card, to say nothing of the soups and salads.

Thankfully, the choices were made for us so all we had to do was enjoy the good, good food that came our way. The crispy chilli edamame is a great way to start things off. Browned garlic and almond flakes and round out the punch that the chilli oil brings to fried edamame; it does quite well as a bar snack.

Bountiful beauty Iza's pan Asian dining menu is a feast for the senses. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Iza
Hits: Dimsums, uramaki, raindrop cake
Misses: Singaporean cereal prawns
Price for two: ₹3000

The dim sums here are a revelation – with 14 variants on the menu, the vegetarian options edge out non-veg ones by one! We tried the wild mushroom and truffle, chicken and blue pea, and spicy prawn and kaffir lime dim sums.

Each of these were delicious by themselves and came with sauces that enhanced their taste. What really stood out for us was that the dim sums came in beautiful vibrant shades instead of the now boring, off-white that is the norm. And while colour does not always affect taste, it certainly influences perception. And that is another thing about IZA; everything is so aesthetically laid out – from the way food is plated to their simple table linen and décor.

The Singaporean cereal prawns were a bit bland despite the curry powder and fried chilli tempering, though the prawn itself was soft and succulent. The duck spring roll, spiced with hoisin and served with chilli plum sauce, is for those who enjoy a smidgen of sweetness with their spice. Duck too, is an acquired taste, so order it only if your palate is accustomed to either one or both.

Next up, was the *uramaki*. For those not in the know, *uramaki* is regular sushi turned inside out with the rice on the outside.

We had the asparagus and truffle *uramaki* as well as the shrimp and salmon *nikkei uramaki*, and both were distinctly flavourful.

After all this, it was hard to settle for a main course, and it was not because we were already quite full. We had only scratched the surface of the menu at Iza – there were still ramen bowls, *baos* and noodles, with their many variants to try, but that would have to wait for another day.

In the end, we did try their Asian egg fried rice paired with a Euro-Asian vegetable curry, which went very well together.

But no matter how full you feel, there is always room for dessert and IZA's raindrop cake was no exception.

The tender coconut jelly, water chestnuts and sweetened coconut milk made for a light and lovely ending to a splendid meal.

Music, dance, and Tagore

The Gandhi Global Family and Seshadripuram Educational Trust is organising a special event titled Rabindranath Tagore: The Spirit of Asia and Our Human Future, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Tagore's visit to China.

Tagore, a towering figure in Bengali literature and the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, was a poet, novelist, playwright, composer, philosopher and social reformer. His prolific writings reshaped Bengali literature and music, introducing a new era of expression deeply rooted in Indian culture.

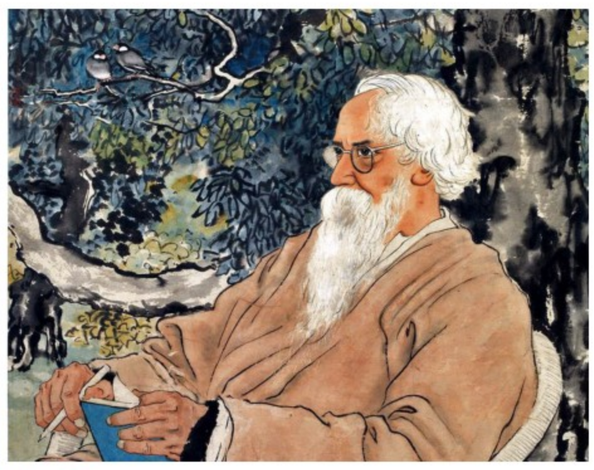
Renowned Tagore biographer Uma Dasgupta and writer Achala Moulik will lead a panel discussion exploring the historical and modern ties between India and China.

They will delve into Tagore's ideas on fostering peace and unity across Asia, while also highlighting the life and work of Tan Yun Shan, Tagore's close friend and founder of the Cheena Bhavan in Shantiniketan.

Following the discussion, Bangalore Little Theatre will bring Tagore's words to life with a dramatic reading.

To conclude the event, Sunaad will captivate the audience with a mesmerising Rabindra Sangeet and dance performance, featuring Soma Ganguly on vocals accompanied by Bijan Das on tabla, Shibnath Chakraborty on flute, and Ranjita Bhattacharya as the dancer.

This free event takes place on April 28, 10 am at Seshadripuram College, marking the second event in a year-long series celebrating Tagore's legacy. More information at peacedialogue.in.



Ties of Time The event will look at all things Tagore. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CITYBEATS

Kher package

APRIL 27
Kailash Kher, winner of the Padmashree Award, and known for songs such as 'Chand Sifarish' and 'Allah ke bande' will perform in Bengaluru this weekend. The concert will be at Courtyard, Phoenix Market City, at 7pm.
Tickets available on Bookmyshow.
At Phoenix Marketcity, 7pm

Mango mania

ONGOING
The Kind Roastery & Brewroom has a Mangoes and the Sun summer menu highlighting Indian mangoes by showcasing the distinct types grown in Karnataka, Bihar and Maharashtra, in their smoothies, sorbets and more.
The Kind Roastery & Brewroom is in JP Nagar.

'Vote flights' bring in Keralites from the Gulf

Over 30,000 voters from the Gulf have reached Kerala for the Lok Sabha polls as the influence they exercise on other voters matters for political parties; several flights have been arranged from Saudi Arabia; the members of KMCC are holding roadshows in Malappuram, Ponnani and Wayanad

Abdul Latheef Naha
MALAPPURAM

Hundreds of expatriate Keralites working in the Gulf countries have come home on a short visit to cast their votes. Thanks to the Kerala Muslim Cultural Committees (KMCC), the overseas cultural wing of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), several flights were chartered for voting purpose.

A dozen-odd 'vote flights' have been arranged from Saudi Arabia and other countries. Many have come home for an extended Id-ul-Fitr vacation. Many who did not get leave for a week or two are coming on Thursday evening.

The KMCC leaders said about 30,000 Keralites have reached home to vote in the Lok Sabha election. More than their votes, the influence they exercise on other voters matters.

This time, different KMCC units in the Gulf are involved in the electoral campaign like never before. "The reason is obvious. As Indians working abroad, we know much better than our brothers and sisters at home how India and Indians are being perceived by the world. The world media have contempt for India and its government. The Arabs here, who used to respect Indians, have begun making fun of us. All because of the Narendra Modi government and its despotic policies," said Aboobacker Arimbra, president of the Jeddah unit of KMCC.

Setting political tone: A rally being taken out by the Jeddah KMCC unit in Malappuram district on Sunday. ZAKEER HUSSAIN

Mr. Aboobacker said that although they had voted in the previous elections, this time they were involved in an intensive campaign. "We have devised a slogan: India should win, and democracy should be salvaged."

K.P. Mohammed Kutty, chief patron of the Saudi Arabia national unit of the KMCC, said that expatriates were disappointed like never before for several reasons, including lack of government support for their pension and improper travel facilities. "Earlier, we had a Ministry at the Centre to handle the matters of expatriates. It is time to express our angst through voting," he said.

Using the wide networks of the KMCC wings and their members, the organisation reached out to tens of thousands of people in Kerala and other States. The Jeddah unit of the KMCC alone has 25,000 members. If other major units in Saudi Arabia like those in Riyadh and Dhamam come together, the number of voters being canvassed goes further up.

They have been campaigning for nearly two months. In the last phase of campaign, they took out an expatriates rally at Malappuram on Sunday, and started a roadshow from Chelari on Monday, which will conclude at Tirurangadi on Wednesday. On Tuesday, they held an expatriate family gathering in Malappuram. They are staging roadshows not only in Malappuram and Ponnani, but also in Wayanad.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Hot and humid weather likely to prevail over coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.6	28.1	Kozhikode	—	37.5	28.4
Ahmedabad	—	39.6	25.0	Kurnool	—	43.2	28.4
Aizawl	—	—	21.6	Lucknow	—	39.6	23.1
Allahabad	—	42.0	26.5	Madurai	—	39.9	27.5
Bengaluru	—	37.6	24.8	Mangaluru	—	33.5	26.0
Bhopal	—	38.9	24.2	Mumbai	—	34.2	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	41.8	26.7	Mysuru	—	37.3	23.0
Chandigarh	—	30.8	20.5	New Delhi	—	36.8	22.6
Chennai	—	38.3	25.8	Patna	—	40.7	27.8
Coimbatore	—	39.2	26.8	Port Blair	—	34.2	27.1
Dehradun	—	34.0	18.9	Puducherry	—	36.2	27.1
Gangtok	—	23.2	15.1	Pune	—	41.6	25.8
Goa	—	34.5	25.0	Raipur	14	37.6	21.8
Guwahati	—	34.2	22.2	Ranchi	—	37.2	24.1
Hubballi	—	38.0	25.0	Shillong	—	26.4	16.5
Hyderabad	—	40.2	26.5	Shimla	—	24.4	13.6
Imphal	—	33.0	21.1	Srinagar	—	22.8	8.2
Jaipur	—	38.6	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.4	27.0
Kochi	—	34.2	27.4	Tiruchi	—	40.1	27.0
Kohima	—	27.6	17.4	Vijayawada	—	41.0	26.6
Kolkata	—	38.8	27.8	Visakhapatnam	0.1	34.8	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..56	.40	...189	...163	
Bengaluru	.10	..17	.23	...114	...127	
Chennai	...5	9	100	48	48	
Delhi	.44	109	.53	...203	...276	
Hyderabad	...3	..32	.40	51	...104	
Kolkata	.30	..67	.18	92	...107	
Lucknow	...5	..54	.22	...174	...122	
Mumbai	.25	..55	.75	...203	...124	
Pune	.74	..90	114	72	74	
Visakhapatnam	.14	..48	.23	83	...100	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 354 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Training to assist teachers in cultivating a positive classroom environment

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MiTran Global, an edutech organisation, will conduct a training programme for teachers on practical strategies and insights for cultivating a positive classroom environment. The training programme will be held on April 27 and May 4.

According to a press release, the training is designed for educators at all levels, including teachers, school administrators, and educational professionals who want to create a learning environment that enhances student engagement, learning outcomes, and overall well-being.

The Hindu In School is a media partner for the event.

The sessions will help understand the power of positivity in education, include strategies for fostering positive relationships with students, implement classroom management techniques, and promote social and emotional learning, the release said.

Wide range of speakers

Through engaging presentations, interactive workshops, and real world examples, participants will gain insights and actionable strategies to create a classroom environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The keynote speakers are Neeta Bali, director, Seth Anandram Jaipuria Schools; Anna-Karin Berg, internationalisation strategist in education, Drottning Blankas Gymnasieskola, Sweden; Vidyashankar Guru, co-founder and chief vision officer, MiTran Global; Neha Sharma, former Deputy Secretary, CBSE; Karen Wagnon, founder of Teaching Our Youth, Atlanta; Denise Thompson Shearer, school psychologist, Florida; Chitrakala Ramachandran, principal, Chennai Public School; Kavita Bajpai, education innovator and Anjali Razdan, director of academics at Meluha International School, Hyderabad.

Registrations are open for the training at mitranglobal.com/page/ccm.

Karnataka HC notice to govt. over two people officiating 'illegally' as KMC president and vice-president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition, which has complained that failure of the government to nominate five members to the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) has enabled illegal continuation of two persons as president and vice-president from amongst earlier elected members despite election of 12 new members to KMC.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order on the petition filed by Srinivasa B. Kakkilaya, a medical practitioner from Mangaluru. It was pointed out in the petition that 12 members elected from the elections held on January 23, 2020 finally assumed office as member of the KMC on November 27, 2023 due to protracted litigation over the legality of conduction of elections.

However, the elected 12 members could not complete the process of electing new president and vice-president amongst themselves as the government has not nominated five members, under Section 3(2)(C) of the KMC Act, who are also eligible to contest for the post of president and vice-president, it has been complained in the petition. Because the 12 newly assumed elected members were not able to elect the president and vice-president amongst themselves, the member, Kanchi Pralhad V. and Nagaraj Annegowda, who were elected from 2011 elections, are still holding on to the office of the president and vice-president illegally when they have ceased to be the members of the KMC after assumption of new members.

These two persons are illegally continuing in the post of president and vice-president citing that the new persons to hold these posts are not yet elected, the petitioner has alleged while seeking a direction to them to step down from their respective posts immediately.

'BJP wants to change Constitution'

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

The BJP government is "hell-bent on changing the Constitution", AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has said. He was addressing a rally at Chengannur in Kerala on Tuesday.

Mr. Kharge said that right from the RSS chief to sitting MPs and BJP candidates, all were making statements that once the BJP got a two-thirds majority, they would change the Constitution.

Allegations of mass copying in KSOU PG exam emerge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An incident of mass copying during the PG course examination of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, held on April 22 at an examination centre in Bengaluru city has now come to light.

Students have alleged that arrangements were made for the examination in a separate room for a student, as well as for copying in the examination using ChatGPT technology.

The examination was held by the KSOU for various PG courses from April 16 to 22 across the State. "On the last day of the examination on April 22, at the examination centre of a private college in Laggere, Bengaluru, the invigilator in charge of the exam was not present in the examination hall," the students alleged.

"The invigilator handed over the question papers and answer scripts at 9 a.m. and stepped out and only returned 10 minutes before the exam ended to collect the answer scripts. During this period, several students used their mobile phones, exchanged answer sheets between each other and were also openly discussing the answers," students said.

The students also said, "We have noticed that one of the students had been given special treatment and was allowed to sit in a different room along with his mobile phone".

Responding to the allegations, Sharanappa V. Halse, Vice-Chancellor, KSOU, Mysuru said, "I have asked for the report from the Registrar of evaluation and the guilty should be punished."

Students allege lack of facilities at document verification centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several students and teachers expressed their anger against the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University (KSGHMPAU) of Mysuru over the lack of facilities on the Jnana Bharathi campus, Bengaluru, where the document verification for performing arts examination was held on Tuesday.

They alleged that students and senior citizen teachers were made to wait in queue for hours under the scorching sun with no clarity and communication from the university about the procedure. "There was no discipline even in giving tokens," they alleged.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Nagesh V. Bettakote, V-C of KSGHMPAU, said: "The document verification schedule and all other information had been announced on the university website. For the first day of document verification, we distributed only 200 tokens and messaged all the candidates to attend the document verification process. However, the wrong message was circulated among students and teachers, and over 1,000 people came. It was not our mistake."

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, P Mamtha, W/o Syed Anwar, R/a #2, Marappa Garden, J C Nagar, Bengaluru-560006 have changed my name to Syeeda Gulshan vide affidavit dt: 23.04.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, REENA Vincent, residing at #259, 5th Cross Street, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, have changed my name to Reena Premkumar vide affidavit dated: 22/04/2024, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, B'luru

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GENERAL

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ANTHRO

Abhinav Jain
AIR 35
With the continuous support and guidance of Vaid Sir and Team, I am able to continuously score good marks in Anthropology i.e. 294(2021) & 287(2023). It plays an important role in my selection both the times.
Abhinav Jain, AIR 35, IAS`24
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Or Youtube.com/@VaidsICSDelhi | Ph: 9999946748

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNDARA Raja Sharma M K, S/o M S Krishnan residing at No.67 and 68, San Siri Residency, Opp BSF Signal Training School, Sathanur, Village, Bengaluru 560063. I have changed my minor daughter's name from Sanvi Sharma to Shravya Sharma vide affidavit Dt: 20-04-2024 sworn before notary G.R Ravichandra Reddy, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 20)
O.S. NO. 25161/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its Officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh D/o. Mr. Anil Kumar Singh, Aged 24 years
fxcol@yahoo.co.in
Phone No. 8041216669
...PLAINTIFF
AND
Mr. Manjunatha
S/o. Munsamappa,
Aged major
Nallur, Reddihalli,
Bangalore Rural,
Bangalore-562 129.
...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 6,15,006.74/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Fifteen Thousand and Hundred Six and Paisa Seventy Four Only) apart from future interest of 9.75% p.a., in O.S. No. 25161/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 20, Before Addl. City Civil Court Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 01st day of June, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your adsence Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 05th day of April, 2024.
By the Order of Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall
Bengaluru- 560 005
FX & CO., ADVOCATES
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005

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NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT) 2024
NOTICE
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the GPAT 2024 on 8th June 2024.
Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	19th April 2024 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	19th April 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 8th May 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	8th June 2024
Declaration of the Result	By 8th July 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

APPOINTMENT

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA::HYDERABAD
NOTIFICATION
No.87/2024-RC, DATED: 10.04.2024
Applications are invited through 'ONLINE' for General Recruitment to 150 posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in the Telangana State Judicial Service, comprising of 31 existing clear vacancies, 90 future/anticipated vacancies likely to arise in the next two calendar years 2024 and 2025 under Direct Recruitment and 15 existing clear vacancies, 14 future/ anticipated vacancies likely to arise in the next two calendar years 2024 and 2025 to be filled under Recruitment by Transfer. The detailed notification is placed in the official website of the High Court http://tshc.gov.in.
Important Dates
1. Starting Date for submission of online Application: 18.04.2024
2. Closing Date for Submission of online Application: 17.05.2024
3. Date and Time for conducting Screening Test (computer based Test will be held on 16.06.2024 (Sunday) from 09.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. and the venue will be mentioned in the Hall ticket.
4. Download of Hall Tickets: 08.06.2024 on wards.
Note: The Hand written/Typed/Photostat copy/Printed Application Form will not be entertained either directly or by Post or Courier or in person.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL-I),
FAC. REGISTRAR (RECRUITMENT)
DIPR No : 915-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

15.04.1960 - 22.04.2024
K ARUN KUMAR
former Tamil Nadu Cricketer
Attained saranagathi at the lotus feet of the Lord, after a prolonged battle.
Mourned by wife: Shanti Arunkumar
sons: Abhiram Arunkumar, Srinand Arunkumar
daughter in law Kavindi;
Brother: K Bharath Kumar & family
Condolences at: 9321732202

Insuring the future

While broadening eligibility, health insurance must be made affordable

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the apex regulator of insurance products, has asked companies to enable a wide demographic of citizens to benefit from health insurance. Most significantly, it directs insurance providers to make health insurance available to senior citizens, as those above 65 are currently barred from issuing new policies for themselves. This is clearly an acknowledgement of demographic changes underway in India. Though India's population figures have not been officially accounted for since 2011, estimates from the UN Population Fund and experts suggest that India's is nearly level with China and may have surpassed it sometime in 2023. The India Ageing Report, 2023, which draws from UN projections, estimates that India's cohort of seniors – those above 60 – will increase from about 10% of the population (149 million in 2022) to 30% (347 million) by 2050. That is more than the current population of the U.S. Several of the most developed countries already have their senior demographic (65-plus) ranging from 16% to 28%. That is already precipitating considerable worry within these populations on access to health care, affordable medicine and appropriate care-giving infrastructure to support them. Some of these economically developed countries have government-funded public health systems and others are entirely dependent on private health care, with cost being a significant determinant in access to quality care. In many of these countries, there is no entry barrier to health insurance policies, though, following principles of actuarial economics from centuries ago, health insurance gets progressively, and sometimes exponentially, more expensive as age advances.

Already the small, single-digit percentage of India's economic elite can afford the equivalent of "family floater" plans that take care of individuals and their parents at a cost lower than what individual senior-citizen health insurance would cost. If the only effect of the IRDA's recent circular is to provide many more unaffordable health insurance policies, it would be equivalent to admiring the icing on an inedible cake. Much has been made of the next two decades being critical to India's future, on the reasoning that this is the time that India must reap its 'demographic dividend'. This is premised on a large proportion of the workforce moving out of agriculture and inevitably followed by a breakdown of the traditional care-giving structure for the aged. The experience in several southern Indian States is telling. Thus, broadening the eligibility of health insurance should be accompanied by a massive upgradation of affordable health care.

Excessive restrictions

Petition against poll-time curbs raises questions about public participation

Election time prohibitory orders are seldom questioned, even if they amount to blanket restrictions that curb all gatherings. The clamping of prohibitory orders to prevent unauthorised meetings and processions in the run-up to the ongoing general election has been challenged in the Supreme Court of India by activists Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey. While it is quite normal for political parties to approach the police or the executive magistrate concerned for permission to hold rallies, public meetings and road shows, it appears that civil society organisations and groups find that their applications are met with no response at all. Citing examples of such blanket orders, issued under Section 144 of the CrPC, from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi, the petitioners have highlighted the fact that the practice appears to prevail in other States too. It is not difficult to guess that the police and revenue officers vested with magisterial powers do not want any disturbance to public order in the midst of election campaigns, but a legitimate question arises whether the passing of blanket prohibitory orders and studied inaction on applications for any gathering are constitutionally valid. In the petitioners' case, they were unable to hold any public programmes aimed at creating awareness among voters about the election, the candidates and the disclosures they have made in their affidavits and nomination papers.

There are several Court judgments that limit the power under Section 144, which is essentially a power to direct anyone to act or refrain from acting in a particular way. Orders under these provisions typically restrict any assembly of people beyond a small number and require those seeking to hold any public activity to apply for permission. It is difficult to disagree with the argument that such restrictions ought not to apply to activities aimed at educating voters, as the ultimate consequence is that it limits public participation in the democratic process. The Bench that heard the submissions rightly raised the question how such blanket orders could be passed. Its interim order directs executive magistrates to decide applications for public meetings and *yatras* within three days. The case raises a legitimate concern whether an election, by itself, can provide sufficient reason for blanket restrictions on public participation and make it dependent on discretionary powers. It is true that the authorities can cite the fact that they are effectively under the superintendence and control of the Election Commission of India (ECI) during elections, but it also gives rise to yet another question whether the election body favours such a clampdown and whether statutory powers can be shifted from the designated authority to the ECI.

Toss out the junk food, bring back the healthy food plate

Ananya Awasthi

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Apoorva Kalra

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India, like in many other countries, is undergoing a major "nutrition transition". In what characterises rapidly changing dietary patterns, there is a significant shift away from traditional diets, which were high in fibre and comprised mostly whole foods, to more western-style diets, which are processed and high in calories. This change has coincided with rapid economic progress and urbanisation along with a surge in the consumption of packaged and processed foods (popularly called "junk foods"). These foods are nutritionally low in vitamins, minerals, fibre but are high in calories, fats, salt, sugar, and innumerable preservatives. Categorised as high in fats, salts and sugars (HFSS) foods, scientific evidence shows how junk food has been medically found to weaken the body's defences against infection, increase blood pressure, lead to a spike in blood sugar, cause weight gain, and also contribute to increased risk of cancer. Often packaged as comfort foods in India, examples of such junk or HFSS foods include cookies, cakes, chips, *namkeen*, instant noodles, sugary drinks, frozen meals, canned fruits, Indian sweets, and bakery products. It should come as no surprise that India is experiencing an explosion of lifestyle diseases, with unhealthy diets being one of the single largest contributing factors. To put the magnitude of the health burden into perspective, an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study published in 2023 estimates that in India the prevalence of metabolic disorders is glaringly high where 11% has diabetes, 35% is hypertensive and almost 40% are suffering from abdominal obesity.

A significant factor to consider while analysing the evolving dietary habits of Indians is the influence of aggressive advertising to promote "tasty" and "affordable" comfort foods, particularly aimed at younger consumers. According to a pan India survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), 93% of children ate food that was packaged, 68% drank packaged sweetened beverages more than once a week, and 53% ate these foods at least once a day. At the same time, the ultra-processed food industry in India has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 13.37% between 2011 and 2021. Moreover, India's food processing industry is predicted to be worth $535 billion by 2025-26.

Court's concern

Coming to the steps that have been taken to protect consumers from unhealthy foods, a ruling by the Supreme Court of India, in 2013, offers a constitutionally sound place to begin. The Court said, "We may emphasize that any food article which is hazardous or injurious to public health is a potential danger to the fundamental right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India." Recognising the need to promote people's health and well-being, the Government of India has prioritised the promotion of healthy foods and an active lifestyle through its initiatives such as Eat Right India, the Fit India Movement, and Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition (Poshan) 2.0.

As children are more exposed to the advertising of unhealthy foods, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) released the Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations, 2020, restricting the sale of HFSS in school canteens/mess premises/hostel kitchens, or within 50 metres of the school campus. Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights also issued notice to a health drink giant to evaluate and withdraw all misleading advertisements, packaging and labels that brand the product as a "health drink", citing the product's high sugar content that can adversely impact the health of children.

Despite a policy intention to provide a safe food environment, there is still much work that needs to be done in ensuring effective implementation of interventions that can have an impact on the consumption of junk foods. Here are four strategies that hold the key to translating policy intention into meaningful change on the ground.

Formulate a clear definition

First, a good starting point for the government is to protect growing children from the harmful impact of junk foods. While the FSSAI has released regulations for restricting the consumption of HFSS foods, currently, there is no way to "define" or "identify" which foods fall into the category of HFSS foods. Thus, it is imperative that as the next step, the FSSAI goes ahead and "defines" what exactly constitutes HFSS foods in the Indian context which can enable better implementation of food safety regulations. Moreover, institutions such as the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights can play an instrumental role in ensuring stricter compliance of school food regulations.

Second, Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) appears to be a low-hanging fruit which can enable consumers to make informed choices about what foods they choose to eat. Currently, we have access to a mathematical nutrition table in small print on the back of food packets which most of us neither notice nor comprehend. For instance, the next time you open a package of chips, are you going to sit and calculate how much salt are you consuming in a packet when the label states that there are xx micrograms of sodium per 100 grams?

As an alternative, a "warning label" that states "high in salt" on the front might make more sense, particularly if you are a hypertensive patient. The latter example is an illustration of a front of package nutrition labelling practice that draws one's attention with clear and understandable signals that can help you make an informed food choice.

The Indian Nutrition Rating (INR), where packaged food products would be given a star rating based on the overall nutritional profile of the product, is in fact included in the most recent draft of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations, 2022. However, there are a number of concerns here. Above all, star ratings will give producers a clear escape route: they may add one or two healthy components to raise the overall star rating while still selling unhealthy foods that are dangerously high in fat, sugar, and salt. Moreover, regulations are voluntary until a period of four years from the date of final notification of the regulations.

Have subsidies for healthy foods

Third, policies can also be developed to facilitate the positive subsidies for healthy foods such as whole foods, millets, fruits and vegetables that will improve their availability, affordability, and thus greater consumption in rural and urban areas. The question for policymakers is how to make a fruit more affordable than a ₹5 high salt chips packet and ₹2 high sugar biscuits.

Fourth, in addition to the policies, a behavioural change campaign targeting children and young adults alike can play a critical role in helping youth adopt healthy dietary habits and mindful eating practices. This can include multimedia messaging on the health impacts of junk foods; campaigns building on "vocal for local" which promotes local and seasonal fruits and vegetables and traditional foods such as millets; and interactive discussions on balanced diets and tapping into social media influencers to mainstream conversations about the health risks of junk foods.

It is critical to acknowledge the urgency of switching to healthier diets and creating public demand, or, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls it, a "Jan Andolan" or people's movement, for healthy and nutritionally diverse diets. These efforts must be accompanied by sincere policy interventions that help Indians exercise their right to make informed food choices.

There needs to be a people's movement, backed by sincere policy interventions, to promote healthy and nutritionally diverse diets and ensure informed food choices

Reversing the global democratic recession

John J. Kennedy

is Professor and Dean, Christ (deemed to be university), Bengaluru

India is in the midst of its most significant electoral exercise and it might be worthwhile to scrutinise people's changing perceptions about their political ecosystems in both the largest democracy and other smaller democratic spaces elsewhere. Such an exercise may help us understand the prevailing global situation and work on the future course of action.

Survey shows a disenchantment

A Pew Research Center's global survey reveals the evolving state of democracies across 24 countries. Conducted between February 20 and May 22, 2023, this survey of 30,861 respondents delves into the complex fabric of democratic ideals, revealing both global trends and nuanced regional variations.

The results highlight a global shift underway, signalling a discernible erosion of trust in democratic systems. Here, 77% of the respondents expressed optimism about representative democracy. But, their receptivity to alternative governance models is worrisome, of an unambiguous disenchantment with democracy. The diminishing support for representative democracy since 2017 becomes even more pronounced when contrasted with the robust 70% endorsement of direct democracy, wherein officials directly influence major decisions, circumventing elected leaders.

Clearly, a perilous transformation has unfolded across these countries from 2017 to 2023, marked by an increased inclination towards rule by experts (58%) and a growing acceptance of authoritarian government models (26%). The rationale behind this shift lies in the perception that democracies, with their need for discussions and consensus-building, lead to delays, while concentrated power facilitates prompt decision-making and quicker economic development.

As expected, respondents from countries with lower incomes and less education tend to endorse such 'strong' leaders. A noteworthy segment (15%) also supports military rule, particularly in middle-income countries. Evidently, such preferences shed light on the intricate interplay of factors shaping the evolving perceptions of governance globally.

How do Indians perceive democracy? In 2017, 44% of Indians favoured representative democracy, which has since decreased to 36% in 2023. Conversely, the inclination towards a powerful leader with significant authority rose from 55% in 2017 to 67% in 2023. Similarly, support for rule by experts exhibits an upward trajectory, soaring from 65% to an impressive 82%.

Notably, the most striking shift is evident in the overwhelmingly positive response from Indians towards military rule or governance by an authoritarian leader, with a staggering 85% preferring it. This upward trend resonates in nations such as Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa. However, it faces resistance in countries such as Canada, Europe, the Scandinavian nations and the United States.

Many argue that these findings align with on-the-ground realities and corroborate agency reports and surveys. Democracy-monitoring organisations characterise contemporary India as a "hybrid regime", ranging from "free to partly free" to "electoral autocracy," and even termed it a "flawed democracy". The recent *Democracy Report* 2024 by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute downgrades India across multiple metrics compared to its assessment in 2018, further confirming these notions. While some accept these reports, others approach them cautiously or dismiss them outright. Nevertheless, there is a growing global perception of a decline in India's democracy.

The need to strengthen foundations

In all democracies, instability, diverse voices, and deliberative processes are inevitable traits and essential tenets, and not weaknesses. Despite the current disillusionment due to corruption, eroded trust, unemployment, inefficiency, electoral doubts, civil liberty violations, and economic disparities, fortifying democratic foundations is paramount.

Toward this objective, two seminal works centred on building a strong democracy may help. *In Strengthening Democracy by Design: Challenges and Opportunities*, Nancy L. Thomas and J. Kyle Upchurch (2018) describe a robust democracy characterised by four pillars: participatory, free and equal, educated and informed, and accountable and justly governed. Incorporating these fundamental attributes into governance is imperative for any democracy to truly function as such, not merely to be labelled as one. This requires concerted efforts and well-thought-out measures by all citizens, including those in authority.

Another inspiring and much-needed work for our times is *The Civic Bargain - How Democracy Survives* by Brook Manville and Josiah Ober (2023). The authors argue that a robust 'civic bargain system' can help democracy thrive. After all, democracy entails collective self-governance where citizens assume responsibility for their government, collaborating in a shared endeavour while acknowledging the diversity of interests and the significance of common goods. According to them, a civic bargain comprises a set of norms facilitating cooperation among individuals with differing objectives, along with rules delineating decision-making procedures. When coupled with civic friendship – treating all participants with respect within the shared endeavour – hope for democracy endures. Democracy embodies a commitment to fellow citizens, entailing responsibility towards each other, symbolising good citizenship, and fostering neighbourliness with an open mind. Under such a framework, all actions and decision-making processes are transparent and accountable. An informed citizenry is central to a democracy.

Dialogue is essential

In addition, governance should prioritise inclusivity and unity while tackling political polarisation and addressing diverse societal needs such as economic inequality, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Special focus on enhancing education is crucial, with investments in critical thinking, media literacy, and conflict resolution training. Integrating the study of the Constitution into curricula can foster transformative perspectives. Promoting dialogue and negotiation strengthens democracy's foundation. Fostering faith in democracy is an ongoing and collaborative effort that demands unwavering commitment from citizens and governments. It revolves around creating an inclusive space where everyone feels their voice is acknowledged and actively heard, and their concerns addressed.

Despite the disillusionment, for a variety of reasons, the need to fortify democratic foundations has to be ongoing and collaborative

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speech, hate, no action

It is extremely unfortunate for Indian democracy that the Election Commission of India initially "declined to comment" on the Prime Minister's speech in Rajasthan (April 23). Why is it not surprising!

Almost every institution in this country has been diminished under this government.

The people of India now look up to the Supreme Court of India to save the nation.

Mr. Modi has proved time and again that he is capable of inflicting attacks on India's secular and democratic fabric. Such a sharp campaign will only alienate Muslims. Distrust has been kindled in the minds of other minority communities. Words of hate are best avoided.

Unnikrishnan S. Menon,
Puthenchira, Thrissur, Kerala

The speech clearly constitutes an act prejudicial to the maintenance of peace and harmony between different religious groups. It is most unfortunate that the process of 'hate preaching' has undermined the self-respect and self-confidence of the minorities. The dissemination of hate is changing India.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In the Data Point story, "A fact-check on Modi's controversial speech in Rajasthan" (April 23, 2024, Opinion page), the sentence, "A fact-check using government data shows that the claim that Muslims give birth to more children is erroneous", should read as: "A fact-check using government data shows that the gap between the fertility rate of Muslims and that of other religions is narrowing."

Towards a less poor and more equal country

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In March, World Inequality Lab, a global research centre focused on inequality and public policies, published a working paper titled, 'Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj'. The authors – Nitin Kumar Bharti, Lucas Chancel, Thomas Piketty, and Anmol Somanchi – combined data from national income accounts, wealth aggregates, tax tabulations, rich lists, and surveys on income, consumption, and wealth to present their results.

Income and wealth inequality

First, let's look at income inequality. By 2022-23, the report states, 22.6% of India's national income went to just the top 1% in the country, the highest in the last 100 years. And just the top 0.1% of the population earned nearly 10% of the national income in India. The share of the top 1% in the national income is among the highest in the world.

In terms of wealth inequality, the share of the top 1% in wealth was 40.1% in 2022-23, the highest level since 1961. The share of wealth among the top 10% increased from 45% in 1961 to 65% in 2022-23. Conversely, the share of the bottom 50% and middle 40% in wealth declined. In short, the rich got richer and the poor got poorer in wealth. "About 10,000 individuals out of 92 million Indian adults own an average of ₹22.6 billion in wealth, 16,763 times the average Indian," the report states.

India's wealth inequality is not as extreme as Brazil and South Africa where the top 10% hold 85.6% and 79.7% of the national wealth, respectively. However, its wealth concentration increased threefold between 1961 and 2023. Additionally, as India's income inequality is among the highest in the world, even higher than South Africa, Brazil and the U.S., it will only add to the wealth inequality.

The report says between 2014-15 and 2022-23 "the rise of top-end inequality has been particularly pronounced in terms of wealth concentration". It states that "the 'Billionaire Raj' headed by India's modern bourgeoisie is now more unequal than the British Raj headed by the colonialist forces." Inequality undermines both growth and reduction of poverty.

Between 1960 and 1980, inequality was dropping. The pattern of growth and its objectives ensured that outcome. However, inequality began increasing with the beginnings of liberalisation in the 1980s, and faster after the 1991 economic reforms in India.

The dynamics of income and wealth inequality are interwoven with the dynamics of economic growth and human development. India's average income adjusted for inflation and purchasing power differentials were on a par with China and Vietnam until 1975. In the next quarter century, incomes in China and Vietnam increased by 35-50% compared to incomes in India. Post-2000, China's income started to grow at an astonishing rate and became 2.5 times India's income. However, growth in China has been broad-based compared to growth in India. In 2022, the share of the top 1% in income in India was nearly 50% higher than that of China. The Chinese economy has been maintaining a higher growth rate over the years with a moderate growth in economic inequality while India's growth has been moderate coupled with extreme growth in economic inequality. That is why India is a "poor and very unequal country".

Here, we would like to emphasise that the twin objectives of high economic growth and reduction of inequality can only be achieved with improvements in human development and poverty reduction. This is what China and Vietnam achieved. Additionally, improvements in human development should precede economic growth if economic growth is to be sustained in the long run. At the national level, the States that sustained high growth over three decades (over 7% GSDP per year) were relatively advanced in human development. These include Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka in the south; Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west; and Punjab and Delhi in the north. States that are relatively backward in the Human Development Index ranking include Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. These States were only able to register a growth rate of less than 5% per annum post-liberalisation.

The twin objectives of high economic growth and reduction of inequality can only be achieved with improvements in human development and poverty reduction

Human development

The Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-2024 ranked India 134 out of 193 countries. India is now the fifth largest economy but it still ranks lower than Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in human development. Its economic growth has not translated into growth in human development.

The poor should not have to wait for the benefits of economic growth to trickle down; human development should be given priority in promoting inclusive growth. In the absence of improvement in human development, enhancement of capability and functioning, and poverty reduction, the growth process cannot be inclusive and will only add to inequality. Economic growth therefore does not need to be at a higher pedestal in terms of policy objectives.

As per the HDR 2023-2024, India's score comes down by 31.1% if we account for economic inequality. The extent of economic inequality is such that it cannot be overcome by the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which provides a few kilogrammes of free foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries. Sops without jobs cannot be the basis for sustained and inclusive growth. As the paper says, "It is unclear how long such inequality levels can sustain without major social and political upheaval".

All eyes on Kadapa

The high-profile constituency is set to witness a battle between cousins

STATE OF PLAY

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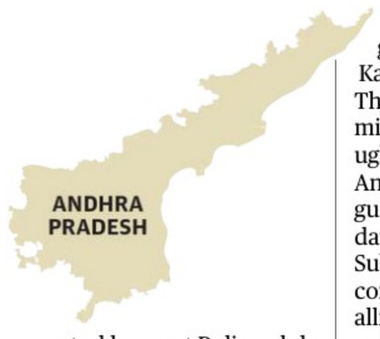
By announcing her candidature from the Kadapa Lok Sabha seat, Andhra Pradesh Congress president Y.S. Sharmila has taken the electoral fight directly to the doorstep of her brother, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Kadapa is Mr. Reddy's home district. It has traditionally been a bastion of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) or, more specifically, of the YS family. Though electoral battles have been fought between distant relatives in the family, this is the first time that cousins are contesting against each other. This makes Kadapa the most sought-after and politically vibrant constituency this election season in the State.

Though this Lok Sabha constituency had once been a stronghold of the Communist Party of India, it later became the citadel of the YSRCP. Between 1989 and 1998, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy and Ms. Sharmila's father, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, from the Congress, was elected thrice to the Lok Sabha from Kadapa. His brother, Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, was then Kadapa MP for two terms. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy was elected from the seat in 2009. Following his father's death in a helicopter crash that year, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy started a Odarpu Yatra (consoling tour) across the State. Eventually he quit the Congress and launched his own party, the YSRCP, in 2011. In 2012, he won the seat again in a bypoll. In 2014 and 2019, his cousin, Y.S. Avinash Reddy, won the seat.



Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy was murdered in 2019 at his ancestral home at Pulivendula in Kadapa district. In the run-up to the polls, the murder case has assumed centre stage. Ms. Sharmila has been blaming Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy for the murder. One of the prime accused in the case is the sitting MP, Mr. Y.S. Avinash Reddy. Despite the ongoing probe of the Central Bureau of Investigation and Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Suneetha Narreddy accusing Mr. Avinash Reddy of the murder, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy has once again given the ticket to Mr. Avinash Reddy. Recently, Ms. Narreddy not only extended support to Ms. Sharmila, but also said that the two of them share a common goal, which is to defeat Mr. Avinash Reddy and Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the coming elections.

After Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's death, Vivekananda Reddy was the only link between the YS family and the electorate of Kadapa. He was an accessible and respected leader. Now, Ms. Sharmila is trying to win over the people. She may be able to secure the minority Christian votes as her husband Anil Kumar is a popular evangelist. This may impact the winning chances of Mr. Avinash Reddy, who could be fighting anti-incumbency.

But Ms. Sharmila also faces some disadvantages. She has lived in Telangana for the last four years and has never been involved in the politics of Kadapa. She launched the YSR Telangana Party in Telangana and has returned to Kadapa only to fight elections. The voters may tire of the family fights that are growing uglier with every passing day. And this may benefit the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate, Chadipiralla Bhupesh Subbarami Reddy. The TDP is contesting the elections in an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party.

Kadapa comprises seven Assembly segments. In 2019, YSRCP won the Kadapa Lok Sabha seat and also swept all the seven Assembly seats. This time, the YSRCP has fielded all its sitting MLAs in the seven Assembly segments. The most high-profile segment is Pulivendula. This is the seat from where Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy is contesting the election. He will be challenged by the TDP's M. Ravindranath Reddy alias B.Tech Ravi and the Jaibhimrao Bharat Party's Shaik Dastagiri, one of the accused in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, who has now turned approver for the CBI.

In both the Lok Sabha election and Assembly polls, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy is hoping that his welfare schemes will help him repeat the YSRCP's feat of 2019. The YSRCP aims to win all the 175 Assembly constituencies this election. Taking a jibe at this lofty goal and energised by the TDP's recent performance in the Legislative Council elections, TDP president Chandrababu Naidu said that his party will not only win the polls but also leave the YSRCP scrambling for votes in its bastion, Pulivendula. However, given Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy's continuing popularity, this could be a daunting challenge for the TDP, which won only 23 seats compared to the YSRCP's 151 in 2019.

Gukesh's quest to conquer the world reaches its final stage

The Chennai chess prodigy's path to success matches that of other elites of the game

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

Grandmaster (GM) D. Gukesh pulled off a phenomenal achievement by winning the prestigious FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2024, a.k.a. Candidates, scoring nine points out of 14 games. At the young age of 17, he has outshone some of the best chess players in the world. He is the youngest winner of the Candidates. The tournament, which was first conducted in 1950, has seen 25 editions so far **(Table 1).**

Two other Indians – fellow Chennai teenager GM R. Praggnanandhaa and GM Vidit Gujrathi – performed creditably scoring seven and six points, respectively, in the open section of the 2024 tournament. GM Koneru Humpy and GM-elect R. Vaishali did well to finish third in the women's section. Gukesh is also the first Indian to win the Candidates since GM Viswanathan Anand won the tournament in 2014 and earned him a rematch for the World Championship against GM Magnus Carlsen.

Gukesh's victory in the tournament was the result of his all-round consistency and stable play. According to Chess.com, Gukesh's average move accuracy in the estimation of high-performing chess engines in all 14 rounds was 95.4% versus his opponents' 93.6% **(Table 2)**. He also led the tournament in wins (five), losing only once to GM Alireza Firouzja, after committing last-minute blunders. He defeated the tournament's lowest-rated player, Nijat Abasov, twice; his compatriots Praggnanandhaa and Gujrathi once each; and avenged his loss against Firouzja in the penultimate round. He also drew comfortably in his games against the higher-rated GMs Fabiano Caruana, Ian Nepomniachtchi, and Hikaru Nakamura. All three of them finished half a point behind Gukesh.

Gukesh is currently India's top-rated player in FIDE live ratings with 2763.4 points, just two ahead of GM Arjun Erigaisi. Anand, Praggnanandhaa, and Gujrathi are the other three in the top five. Gukesh has also become the world no. 6 in live ratings, behind GMs Carlsen (2830), Caruana (2805.4), Nakamura (2794.4), and Nodirbek Abdusattarov (2765), who is also a teenager.

His opponent in the FIDE World Championships, scheduled for November 2024, is incumbent champion GM Ding Liren of China. Interestingly, Ding is currently ranked world no. 7 and, with 2762 points, only two behind Gukesh. But with a peak ELO of 2816 and being one of just 15 GMs to cross the super-elite rating of 2800 (in live ratings), he will be a tough opponent.

The women's championship is set to be an all-Chinese affair between GMs Tan Zhongyi (the challenger) and Ju Wenjun (the incumbent). Gukesh will have a chance to thwart a repeat of the Chinese stranglehold over both championships in 2023.

Gukesh's ascendancy to becoming the challenger to the world crown isn't an accident. **Chart 3** shows his rating points over time. It shows that his trajectory matches that of super GMs like Carlsen, Anish Giri, and Firouzja. All of them were also child prodigies who went on to become formidable elite players.

But while Gukesh became the first player to supplant Anand as the highest-rated Indian last year, he suffered a nearly 40-point drop in ELO ratings between October and December 2023, from 2758 to 2720. He subsequently managed to come up with convincing performances to hike his ratings steadily back to reach a new peak of 2763.4 (live) by the end of the Candidates. If he continues to maintain this form, a rewriting of the record books by the end of the World Championships may well be in order.

Rising to the challenge

The tables are based on data sourced from 2700chess.com, FIDE and chess.com

Table 1 Gukesh is the youngest winner of the Candidates. The tournament, which was first conducted in 1950, has seen 25 editions so far

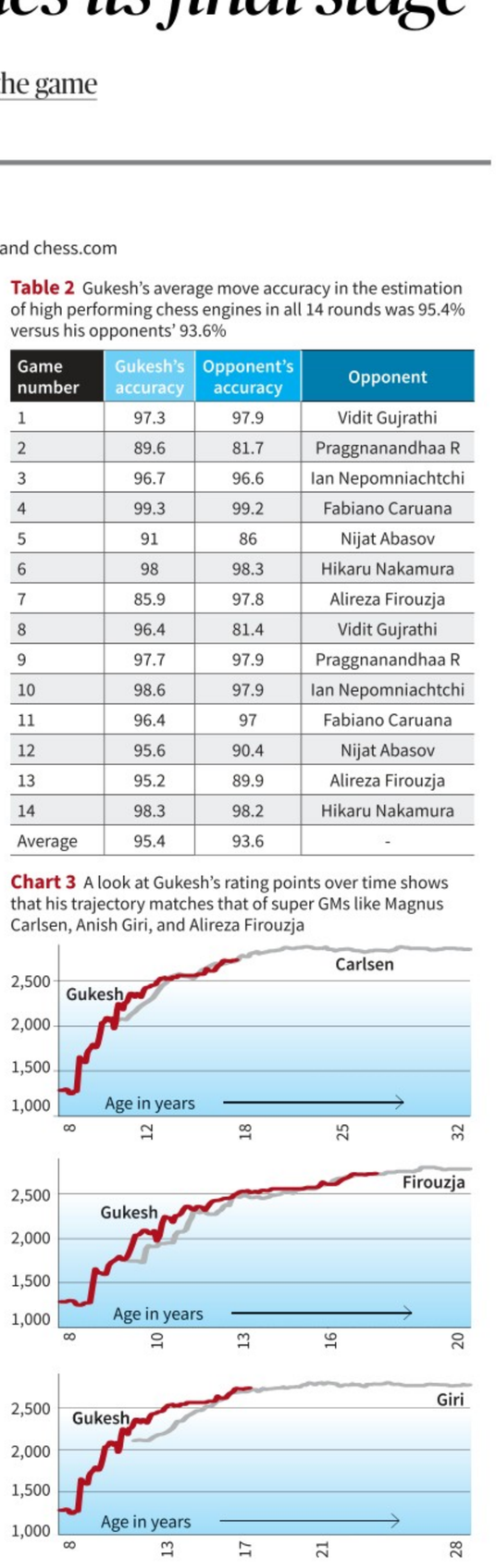
Candidates winner	Candidates tournament year	Age at which player won Candidates	Incumbent champion
David Bronstein	1950	26	Mikhail Botvinnik
Vasily Smyslov	1953	32	Mikhail Botvinnik
Vasily Smyslov	1956	35	Mikhail Botvinnik
Mikhail Tal	1959	23	Mikhail Botvinnik
Tigran Petrosian	1962	33	Mikhail Botvinnik
Boris Spassky	1965	28	Tigran Petrosian
Boris Spassky	1968	31	Tigran Petrosian
Robert (Bobby) Fischer	1971	28	Boris Spassky
Anatoly Karpov	1974	23	Robert (Bobby) Fischer
Victor Korchnoi	1977	46	Anatoly Karpov
Victor Korchnoi	1980	49	Anatoly Karpov
Garry Kasparov	1983	20	Anatoly Karpov
Anatoly Karpov	1987	24	Garry Kasparov
Anatoly Karpov	1990	39	Garry Kasparov
Nigel Short*	1993	28	Garry Kasparov
Jan Timman$	1993	42	Anatoly Karpov
TOP FOUR CANDIDATES QUALIFIED FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL IN 2007#			
Veselin Topalov	2009	34	Viswanathan Anand
Boris Gelfand	2011	43	Viswanathan Anand
Magnus Carlsen	2013	23	Viswanathan Anand
Viswanathan Anand	2014	45	Magnus Carlsen
Sergey Karjakin	2016	26	Magnus Carlsen
Fabiano Caruana	2018	26	Magnus Carlsen
Ian Nepomni-achtchi	2021	31	Magnus Carlsen
Ian Nepomni-achtchi	2022	32	Ding Liren^
Gukesh D	2024	17	Ding Liren

*PCA $FIDE ^ Replacement for Carlsen #Post Reunification

Table 2 Gukesh's average move accuracy in the estimation of high performing chess engines in all 14 rounds was 95.4% versus his opponents' 93.6%

Game number	Gukesh's accuracy	Opponent's accuracy	Opponent
1	97.3	97.9	Vidit Gujrathi
2	89.6	81.7	Praggnanandhaa R
3	96.7	96.6	Ian Nepomniachtchi
4	99.3	99.2	Fabiano Caruana
5	91	86	Nijat Abasov
6	98	98.3	Hikaru Nakamura
7	85.9	97.8	Alireza Firouzja
8	96.4	81.4	Vidit Gujrathi
9	97.7	97.9	Praggnanandhaa R
10	98.6	97.9	Ian Nepomniachtchi
11	96.4	97	Fabiano Caruana
12	95.6	90.4	Nijat Abasov
13	95.2	89.9	Alireza Firouzja
14	98.3	98.2	Hikaru Nakamura
Average	95.4	93.6	-

Chart 3 A look at Gukesh's rating points over time shows that his trajectory matches that of super GMs like Magnus Carlsen, Anish Giri, and Alireza Firouzja



Note: The age of players in table 1 was calculated based on approximate difference in years and not exact dates

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 24, 1974

CBI probe into theft of defence telescope

New Delhi, April 23: Besides the institution of a Departmental Court of Enquiry, which was investigating the theft of the special type of telescope from the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Balasore in Orissa, the Central Bureau of Investigation had also taken up the matter and its report was awaited, said Mr. V.C. Shukla, Union Minister of State for Defence Production, in reply to a calling attention notice in the Lok Sabha to-day. The theft was detected on April 11.

Mr. A.B. Vajpayee and other members raising the calling attention notice expressed concern over the theft from a Defence installation and demanded a high-power enquiry. Mr. Shukla assured them that he would place before the House all the facts after the enquiry was completed and the guilty persons would be brought to book.

A number of points were raised by the members in the course of the discussions. Among these were reports about the prevalence of a "regular conspiracy" to steal Defence equipment and collect them in a "clandestine manner" for future use by anti-social elements, the tension existing between the employees and the management of the Defence establishment, etc.

Mr. Shukla denied that there was any conspiracy to steal Defence equipment. He. however, admitted that there was tension between the employees and the management, and said, "We are trying to remove it."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 24, 1924

Bengal bye-elections

Calcutta, April 23: Scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates for the bye-election to the Bengal Legislative Council from the three European constituencies took place to-day. From the Calcutta Trades Association constituency, Mr. Trevor J. Plepps being the only candidate for the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. J. Cottle he was declared duly elected. In the Bengal Chamber of Commerce constituency, Messrs W.O. Carrie and S.A. Skinner were declared duly elected in the places of Mr. A.O.A. Willie and A. Coch resigned.

From Page One

Cong. tried to reduce quota for Dalits: Modi

Mr. Modi said the Congress had launched it as a "pilot project" in Andhra Pradesh with an intention to extend it all over the country.

The Prime Minister defended his recent remarks on "redistribution of wealth", saying he had exposed the "vote bank and appeasement politics" of the Congress in his 90-second speech. "The Congress has hatched a deep conspiracy to snatch people's wealth and distribute it among the select people," he said, adding that his exposure had created so much panic in the Congress and the INDIA bloc that their leaders were abusing him everywhere.

"It is written in their manifesto that they will survey the wealth. Their leader said publicly that the wealth would be detected with X-ray. When Modi exposed the secret, your hidden agenda was revealed, and you are trembling... We are ready to confront you," the Prime Minister said.

On the issue of reservation, Mr. Modi said an attempt was made to extend the quota facility to Muslims at the national level in 2011 by cutting into the reservation meant for Dalits and backward classes. "Amid all these conspiracies, Modi is giving you a guarantee with an open heart that reservation for Dalits and backward tribals will neither be abolished nor will it be allowed to be divided in the name of religion," he said.

The Prime Minister said he had extended the reservation for Dalits and tribal people for 10 years in 2020 when the constitutional limit for the quota was ending. He said the BJP government, when elected in Karnataka, had abolished the Muslim reservation which was created by snatching the share of the SC and ST communities.

'Govt. must act on firms using misleading ads'

On Monday, the court widened the scope of the case and decided to implead the Ministries of Consumer Affairs and Information and Broadcasting as parties in the case. The AYUSH Ministry is already represented in the case. Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj appeared for the Union government.

Justice Kohli asked whether the Centre was taking any efforts to identify FMCG companies which resort to misleading advertisements.

Justice Kohli pointed out that the Advertising Standards Council of India had flagged 948 objectionable advertisements to the AYUSH Ministry in the past two years. "What follow-up action did you take on this information?" the judge asked.

Justice Amanullah said he recently saw a channel flash news about the Supreme Court hearing in the case even as a part of the screen was taken up by a FMCG company's misleading advertisement.

"It was ironic," Justice Amanullah said.

Contempt case

The court was hearing a contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved, its co-founder and yoga guru Baba Ramdev and his associate Acharya Balkrishna for continuing to advertise their ayurvedic drugs in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act despite an undertaking given to the Supreme Court.

On April 10, the Bench had similarly expressed its misgivings about the extent of vigil over products advertised and sold by FMCG companies.

Cong. nominee in Surat goes incommunicado

The Congress workers, who are furious at Mr. Kumbhani's "irresponsible conduct", even pasted posters at the gate of his locked house that read "*janta ka gaddar* (people's traitor)".

Mr. Kumbhani's nomination papers were rejected on Sunday after his three proposers denied that they signed the papers. The three proposers have also been missing since April 19.

In Delhi, the party has approached the Election Commission (EC) seeking its intervention in Surat where all rival candidates opted out of the contest one by one, paving the way for the BJP's Mr. Dalal to be declared the winner without election.

In its plea to the EC, the Opposition party has asked the the poll body to use powers under Article 324 "for setting aside the order passed by the Returning Officer cancelling Mr. Kumbhani's nomination, directing restoration of his candidature from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency; or in the alternative, (accepting) nomination of the backup candidate for the INC, Suresh Padsala".

However, Congress leaders and workers in Surat are fuming at the party leadership's inability to ensure proper nomination papers or look into proposers who endorsed his nomination.

Patidar quota activist

Mr. Kumbhani had risen to fame in 2015 during the Patidar quota agitation. As a member of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) that spearheaded the State-wide agitation, he was one of the key players behind the protest, and worked along with Hardik Patel, now a BJP legislator.

The day Mr. Kumbhani's nomination papers were rejected by the returning officer, Dinesh Kachchadia, a local AAP leader, in a social media post alleged that Mr. Kumbhani had "struck a deal for ₹5 crore" with the BJP.

On Tuesday, the AAP leaders demanded criminal action against Mr. Kumbhani for forgery.

Kejriwal and Kavitha to remain in jail till May 7

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday extended till May 7 the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader K. Kavitha in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the order for the extension of the judicial custody of the two politicians, who are in jail after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in March. The court had earlier rejected their interim and regular bail applications.

Kejriwal given insulin

The Tihar Jail administration on Tuesday said Mr. Kejriwal had been administered a "low dose" of insulin on Monday night following a spike in his blood sugar levels.

A day earlier, a court had directed the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to constitute a medical board to examine Mr. Kejriwal and decide on his demand for the administration of insulin.

Was your apology as big as your ads, SC asks Patanjali

Patanjali, Ramdev, and Balkrishna are facing contempt action from the Supreme Court for publishing objectionable and misleading advertisements about their Ayurvedic products

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Patanjali Ayurved, a company co-founded by self-styled yoga guru Baba Ramdev, if its apology published in newspapers was as big and expensive as its usual "front page" advertisements for herbal drugs.

Patanjali and Ramdev and his associate Acharya Balkrishna are facing contempt action from the Supreme Court for publishing objectionable and misleading advertisements about their Ayurvedic products.

They had even violated an undertaking given to the Supreme Court in November last year to stop these advertisements. The court has so far been unhappy with their affidavits expressing regret.

In the previous hearing, the three contemnors had promised to take steps to redeem themselves, indicating they would publicly apologise in the media.

In the dock: Yoga guru Baba Ramdev arrives at the Supreme Court to attend the hearing on Tuesday. ANI

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the trio, said the apology was published in 67 newspapers. "Tens of lakhs" were spent to convey their regret for misleading the public.

"But is your apology the same size as the advertisements you normally issue in newspapers? Did it not cost you 'tens of lakhs' to put front-page advertisements," Justice Kohli asked Mr. Rohatgi.

The Bench said it did not want to see "blown-up" copies of the published apology.

Original version

"We want to see the newspaper in the original. Which page, where it was published, etc, We want to see," Justice Amanullah told the senior lawyer.

The Bench gave Mr. Rohatgi time till April 30 to file the original papers.

The court sought an explanation from the AYUSH Ministry for the sudden "omission" of Rule 170, which dealt with the power to take action against objectionable advertisements, from the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

The court said the government's own expert body had recommended Rule 170, only for the Centre to inexplicably remove the regulation later on.

"Your own Minister of State assures in Parliament the need to protect consumers and initiate action against objectionable advertisements... then you go on to remove Rule 170. What weighed on you to do this?" Justice Kohli sought an explanation from the Centre.

Actually, the disarmament of Rule 170 was quoted by Patanjali as an excuse to continue with their advertisements. The company had found the remaining laws against objectionable advertisements – Drugs and Magic Remedies Act of 1954 – "archaic".

The court further impleaded the licensing authorities and drug controllers under AYUSH.

Saifuddin to remain chief of Muslim body, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday upheld Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin's position as the religious leader 'Dai-al-Mutlaq' of the Dawoodi Bohra community and dismissed his nephew Taher Fakhruddin's claim that challenged Mr. Saifuddin's position as the 53rd religious leader of the community.

Pronouncing judgment on the 10-year-old legal battle, Justice Gautam S. Patel said, "I do not want any upheavals. I have kept the judgment as neutral as possible. I have only decided on the issue of proof and not faith."

After the death of the 52nd Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin in 2014, his son Mufaddal Saifuddin succeeded as the 53rd Syedna. But this did not go down well with Khuzaima Qutbuddin, Syedna Burhanuddin's half-brother, and he challenged Saifuddin's succession, claiming that Syedna Burhanuddin had secretly conferred '*nass*,' [the official declaration of succession] upon him in 1965.

Congress promises to set up JPC to probe rule violations by Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday reiterated its position of setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate allegations of violations of rules by the Adani Group, if the party came to power at the Centre.

Party general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had found that certain offshore funds invested in the Adani Group "violated disclosure rules and breached investment limit".

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh, in a statement, alleged that after years of "prevarication and timidity", India's stock market regulator appeared to have finally identified the key players of the Adani mega scam.

"Far from the 'clean chit' that 'Modani' and the 'Godi media' claimed last year, a *Reuters* news report suggests that SEBI has found that 'a dozen offshore funds invested in Adani Group companies in violation of disclosure rules and in breach of investment limits'. Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi's strong and personal electoral bond with Adani cannot cover up his close friend's illegality any longer," the Congress leader alleged.

Close associates

Mr. Ramesh claimed that the needle of suspicion pointed directly to close Adani associates Nasser Ali Shahban Ahli and Chang Chung-Ling. He said it was previously reported that SEBI was investigating Mr. Ahli's British Virgin Island-incorporated shell company Gulf Asia Trade & Investment for violating share ownership rules and "for potentially acting in concert with the Adani Group to manipulate share values and to carry out money laundering and round tripping through offshore tax havens".

"Only a JPC can investigate the full extent of the Adani MegaScam. This will happen in June 2024, as soon as the INDIA coalition takes office," he asserted.

Visa not extended, Australian journalist leaves India 'abruptly'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The New Delhi chief of bureau of Australia's state-run news outlet has stated that she had to leave India "abruptly" after government officials denied her a visa-extension. The public announcement by Avani Dias, the journalist, came after she and her team from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) were questioned by an officer from the Criminal Intelligence Department when they were producing a programme on the Indian government's alleged targeted assassination of pro-Khalistan separatists in Western countries. Sources here have described her version as "misleading".

"Last week, I had to leave India abruptly. The Modi Government told me my visa extension would be denied, saying my reporting 'crossed a line'. After Australian Government intervention, I got a mere two-month extension...less than 24 hours before my flight. We were also told my election accreditation would not come through

Avani Dias

because of an Indian Ministry directive," Ms. Dias said in a post on X.

The Hindu has learned that Ms. Dias and her crew were "intimidated" by government officials.

Meanwhile, government sources said that Ms. Dias's sudden departure came as a surprise, citing the fact that the journalist had herself paid the fees for visa extension a day prior to flying out, and the extension had been granted before she left. In addition, sources said that Ms. Diaz had been found to have flouted the BSF's security norms while filming at the Wagah border and the ABC film crew had not followed the visa norms for documentary-making while in India. They further described her version of events as "misleading".

Significant human rights abuses in India, says U.S. report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The U.S. State Department, in its 2023 Human Rights Report (HRR), a country-wise compilation of human rights practices, has flagged "credible reports" of more than a dozen different kinds of human rights abuses in India, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest or detention, torture to coerce confessions, repeated impositions of Internet shutdowns and blocked telecommunications, surveillance of civil society activists and journalists, and "crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting members of ethnic and caste minorities".

The report, released by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, highlighted that "the outbreak of ethnic conflict between the Kuki and Meitei ethnic groups" resulted in "significant human rights abuses".

It also noted that "the government took minimal credible steps or action to identify and punish officials who may have committed human rights abuses".

Stating that "there were several reports that the government or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings, during the year, the report pointed out that "the country registered 813 cases of extrajudicial killings between 2016 and 2022, with the most reported in Chhattisgarh, followed by Uttar Pradesh".

In a section titled "Transnational repression", the HRR referred to reports of the government engaging in repression "against journalists, members of diaspora, civil society activists, and human rights defenders". The report, observing that "other governments and diaspora communities" have alleged that the Indian government has "killed persons or used violence or threats of violence against individuals in other countries, for reprisal", cited the statements of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that his government was probing allegations of a link between Indian government agents and the killing of a Sikh Canadian citizen, Harjeet Singh Nijjar.

INBRIEF

Naima Khatoon becomes first woman V-C of AMU

Breaking a century-old glass ceiling, President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor Naima Khatoon as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Seen as part of the BJP government's Muslim women outreach, the timing of the appointment, days ahead of the second phase of the Lok Sabha election, is noteworthy. Pending for a while, the appointment is also being seen as a message to the Muslim world as the AMU Vice-Chancellor holds an important position in the community.

SC fails to reach petitions on hate speech listed for hearing

The Supreme Court on Tuesday did not take up a series of petitions about the continuing incidents of hate speech across the country. The petitions were listed before a Bench headed by Justice Sanjeev Khanna. Justice Bela M. Trivedi was a puisne judge on Justice Khanna's Bench on Tuesday. By afternoon, the Bench discharged the board while retaining only a handful of cases for detailed hearing for the rest of the day. The petitions had come up amidst a furore over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks in Rajasthan.

Ensure children up to 12 years are seated with parents: DGCA

Aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to ensure that children up to the age of 12 are allocated seats with at least one of their parents or guardians on a flight. The directive comes against the backdrop of instances of children below the age of 12 not being seated along with their parents or guardians during flights. The DGCA also said that unbundled services like zero baggage are provided on an "opt-in" basis by the airlines and are not mandatory in nature. PTI

APPEAL

8 years old **Ayyappan** is suffering from Beta Thalassemia major. He is required to undergo Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs.12,00,000/-**. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

ELECTIONS 2024

War of words over Bengal job termination

A day after the Calcutta High Court terminated the services of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in State-run schools on account of illegality in the appointment, Union Home Minister Amit Shah raised the issue during a campaign in West Bengal.

Mr. Shah said that the court suspended jobs because the Trinamool Congress leaders were taking bribes of ₹15 lakh for the positions. "If you don't have so much money, then how will you get jobs?" Mr. Shah asked.

Hitting back, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said jobs have been terminated at the instruction of the BJP. "Based on the BJP's directions, over 25,000 people have been asked to return their salaries of the past eight years along with interest. How is this possible," she said.

Mamata Banerjee and Amit Shah traded barbs over the HC order in West Bengal. AFP

Lone weaves web of alliances to net Baramulla

Sajad Lone, J&K Peoples Conference chief contesting from the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat, is weaving a web of pre-poll alliances to net the seat and defeat National Conference (NC) candidate Omar Abdullah.

Mr. Lone has already managed a pre-poll alliance with Altaf Bukhari's J&K Apni Party. Mr. Bukhari has leaders like Ghulam Hassan Mir, Usman Majeed and Dilawar Mir in its fold.

Sources said Mr. Lone's party is also reaching out to Nazir Khan, an influential District Development Council (DDC) chairman from Budgam, in an attempt to cobble together pre-poll alliances in all 18 Assembly segments of the Baramulla.

Another Independent leader, Yasir Reshi, has also pledged support to Mr. Lone.

"All scammers came together to save each other. Wait for June 4, campaign against corruption will be more intense and people will be punished

J.P. NADDA
BJP president

Dummy ballots to educate voters in Assam

Kamrup district in Assam has introduced 3D dummy ballot units, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India to familiarise electors with the polling process. "The units will serve as effective educational tools to boost voter confidence and participation," District Election Officer, Keerthi Jalli said.

"Don't fall for BJP's campaign. Modi didn't do anything for 10 years. He did not implement housing for the poor or deposit ₹15 lakh in accounts of poor

REVANTH REDDY
Telangana Chief Minister

Songs of the season: The UDF's Ernakulam candidate, Hibi Eden, with voters. A campaign song for Mr. Eden by M.C. Couper has gone viral. PTI

Snappy songs are livening up Kerala's high-decibel campaign

Saraswathy Nagarajan
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As Kerala gets ready to vote on Friday, many of the candidates are using songs, spanning from rousing marching pieces and rap to lyrics set to popular film numbers, to reach out to voters.

Many lyricists have been writing songs for their friends and acquaintances, irrespective of the political party they represent. Senior political leaders have also come out with verses for their candidates. Leading from the front is Communist Party of India (CPI) State secretary Binoy Viswam, who has written two songs for candidates of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF).

"Since my college days, I have written songs for protests and marches. This time, I wrote one based on the logo of the CPI, '*Arivalum, kathirumaanu ente chinnam...* [sickle and paddy spike is my symbol]'. That is when a mediaperson pointed out that it could only be used in four places in Kerala where CPI candidates are contesting," says Mr. Viswam. So, he wrote a second one, *'Edathupaksham',* which exhorts voters to vote for the LDF and why. The song composed by Gayathri Nair is sung by Pandalam Balan.

Congress leader Pandalam Sudhakaran, a song writer himself, says the party has turned to "professional lyricists". B.K. Harinarayanan and Santhosh Varma are said to have written a few numbers for the Congress. Mr. Harinarayanan points out he has written several pieces for his friends and acquaintances, including for those in the LDF.

M.C. Couper's rap for his friend Hibi Eden, fielded by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Ernakulam, has gone viral. Composed, scored and sung by Mr. Couper, the song has become a rage among Mr. Eden's supporters.

Another rap number that has gone viral is K.P. Aneesh's '*Vannotte, vannotte Vaseef vannotte* (Let Vaseef win)' for V. Vaseef, the State president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India and LDF candidate in Malappuram. He has also scored the music for the song. A CPI(M) functionary, he believes that the rap number will catch the attention of the youth. "I felt a change from the usual revolutionary songs will work among young voters. There is widespread discussion in Malappuram that the sitting MP did not make his stand clear when it came to matters such as triple talaq and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. I have used that in the song. With a few words, we have been able to convey what we want to say."

In Thiruvananthapuram, where sitting MP Shashi Tharoor is fighting a three-cornered battle against Rajeev Chandrasekhar of the BJP and Pannian Ravindran of the LDF, the BJP has come up with several street plays and songs to draw the voters' attention.

Tuned by music director Vinu Kiriyathu, the songs have been written by veteran theatre person Parmeswaran Kuriyathi. He says he has also written several street plays for the BJP to highlight the "failings of the State government and the UDF".

Come April 26, and it will be clear whether the songs were indeed music to the ears of the voters.

Ram Temple, 'save Constitution' churn campaign in U.P. Phase 2

Eight of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the State go to the polls on Friday; many constituencies are witnessing a three-cornered contest with the BJP, BSP and INDIA allies Congress and SP in the fray; in 2019, the BJP won seven of the eight seats

OVERVIEW

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

With eight of the 80 Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttar Pradesh going to the polls on April 26 in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election, the campaign in India's politically most crucial State peaked with top leaders leaving no stone unturned in reaching out to voters with contentious, polarising and long-standing issues taking centre stage.

The constituencies are Aligarh, Amroha, Ghaziabad, Baghpat, Bulandshahar, Meerut, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Mathura,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, both of whom led the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign in this phase, spoke of the Opposition declining the invitation to attend the Ram Temple consecration and "appeasement" politics of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Of the eight seats going to the polls, the BJP in 2019 emerged victorious in seven – Aligarh, Ghaziabad, Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Meerut, Mathura and Gautam Buddha Nagar – with the lone seat of Amroha won by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Kunwar Danish Ali. Mr. Ali is now contesting the seat on Congress ticket.

The campaign in Amroha witnessed rallies by Mr. Modi and a joint rally by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and SP president Akhilesh Yadav. Mr. Modi, while campaigning in Amroha, alleged that Mr. Ali had problems in chanting *Bharat Mata Ki Jai*.

"Will a person, who cannot accept *Bharat Mata ki jai*, look good in Indian Parliament? Should such a person be allowed entry into Indian Parliament?" he asked voters.

Three-corner contest

Mr. Ali is locked in a three-cornered contest in the seat with BJP candidate Kanwar Singh Tanwar and Mujahid Hussain from the BSP. With a roughly 40% Muslim electorate, it needs to be seen which way the minority vote will tilt. In the Aligarh seat, BJP nominee Satish Gautam, the BSP's Hitendra Kumar and the SP's Brijendra Singh are fighting it out.

In another key western Uttar Pradesh seat of Baghpat, the BJP's ally, the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) candidate Rajkumar Sangwan, is competing with Amarpal Sharma of the SP and Praveen Bainsal from the BSP.

In the Scheduled Caste (SC) reserved Bulandshahr seat, Bhola Singh of the BJP is taking on the Congress's Shivram Valmiki and the BSP's Girish Jatav. In Mathura, yet again the triangular contest between the BJP, the BSP and the Congress will witness actor Hema Malini taking on Mukesh Dhangar of the Congress and Suresh Singh of the BSP.

The Prime Minister's campaign focused on the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance [INDIA] bloc parties, and the Congress and the SP's rejection of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony invitation, accusing them of disrespecting Lord Ram.

"The INDIA bloc parties rejected the invitation of Ram Temple consecration ceremony. They have no respect for the tradition of our nation. After 500 years, the dream of a grand Ram temple is fulfilled in Ayodhya. When the people of the country built such a grand temple and forgiving all your [Congress] mistakes by inviting you for the consecration ceremony, these people insulted Lord Ram by rejecting the invitation," said Mr. Modi in Amroha.

'Alleges corruption'

Without naming Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Yadav, the Prime Minister alleged the duo carry with them a box of corruption, appeasement and dynasty.

Mr. Adityanath's campaign was centred on the Congress's alleged tactics of minority appeasement with the Chief Minister accusing the Congress manifesto of intending to implement 'Sharia law' in India and redistribute public wealth to specific sections.

The INDIA bloc leaders pushed the narrative of the 2024 Lok Sabha poll as an important election to save the country's constitutional values and future of coming generations.

"This election is to save the future of the coming generation and the Constitution," said Mr. Yadav in his election speech in Amroha.

The third key player in Uttar Pradesh, the BSP, pushed the cause of a separate western Uttar Pradesh State with party supremo and former four-time Chief Minister Mayawati promising to take concrete steps to make this demand a reality.

Past votes

A look at the winners and runners-up of the Uttar Pradesh Phase 2 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and their vote shares

	Constituency	Winning party	Vote share (%)	Runner-up	Vote share (%)
1	Aligarh	BJP	56.4	BSP	36.7
2	Amroha	BSP	51.4	BJP	46.0
3	Baghpat	BJP	50.3	RLD	48.1
4	Bulandshahr	BJP	60.6	BSP	34.8
5	Gautam Buddha Nagar	BJP	59.6	BSP	35.5
6	Ghaziabad	BJP	62.0	SP	29.1
7	Mathura	BJP	60.9	RLD	34.3
8	Meerut	BJP	48.2	BSP	47.8

PTI

Star power: Amit Shah during a rally in Mathura in support of BJP candidate Hema Malini.

The INDIA bloc parties rejected the invitation of the Ram Temple. They have no respect for the tradition of our nation

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

This [2024 Lok Sabha] election is to save the future of the coming generation and the Constitution

AKHILESH YADAV
Samajwadi Party chief

BJP drops Namgyal, fields Gyalson in Ladakh

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday dropped incumbent MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and nominated Tashi Gyalson, who heads the party-led Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh, as its candidate for the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat in the May 20 election.

Mr. Gyalson was elected Chief Executive Councillor in 2020 after the BJP won 15 out of the 26 seats in the council election in 2020. He was also nominated as a member of a joint sub-committee from Ladakh that is negotiating a settlement with the Union government on the region's several demands, including Statehood status and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Statehood demand

It's the first Lok Sabha election in the Union Territory carved out from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Since then, several Muslim and Buddhist organisations under the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance have been agitating over Statehood status and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule.

Ladakh, with Buddhist-majority Leh and Muslim-Majority Kargil districts, has one Parliament seat.

The BJP's Kargil union, headed by Haji Anayat Ali, congratulated Mr. Gyalson on being nominated as the Ladakh candidate. The constituency has 1,82,570 voters – 91,703 men and 90,867 women. There are 577 polling stations.

Farmers, Dalits, Marathas hold the key in rural Maharashtra

Abhinay Deshpande
NANDED

The outcome in six of the eight Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra, up for voting in the second phase of the Lok Sabha election on April 26, is likely to mirror the sentiments of farmers, Dalits, and Marathas in the primarily rural State.

The eight constituencies are Akola, Amravati, Yavatmal-Washim, Buldhana, and Wardha in the Vidarbha region and Nanded, Parbhani and Hingoli in Marathwada, both regions of rural distress in the western State.

Barring Amravati, which was clinched by the actor-turned-Independent MP Navneet Kaur-Rana, the rest were won by the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in 2019. This time around, Congress candidates are in fray in almost all the seats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari, BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and several top leaders from the Congress have campaigned in these regions.

In Vidarbha and Marathwada, a significant population of Dalit and Maratha voters, including large and small-scale farmers, are said to be disenchanted with the current administration over various issues, including reservation. Vidarbha (1,439 cases) recorded the highest number of farmer suicides in 2023, followed by Marathwada (1,088), show data from the State Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Cotton, soyabean, and sugar cane are the primary crops in these areas, which consistently report the highest number of farmer suicides in the country annually due to crop failures.

Interesting contests

This time, the election has thrown up an interesting contest as Ms. Rana is contesting as a candidate from the ruling BJP, sparking strong resentment among local party leaders and those of the Shiv Sena Eknath Shinde faction and Independent MLA Bacchu Kadu.

It has emerged as a three-cornered contest for the seat, which is reserved for the Scheduled Castes, with the Congress fielding sitting MLA Balwant Wankhede and Mr. Kadu-backed Dinesh Bub.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, is contesting from Akola, where also a three-way contest has emerged, with the Congress, a constituent of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), giving ticket to Abhay Patil, a Maratha, unlike in 2014 and 2019 when the party had fielded a Muslim nominee – Hidayatulla Patel. The BJP has nominated Anup Dhotre, son of sitting MP Sanjay Dhotre who won the seat in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019.

Once a stronghold of the Congress, the Akola constituency in west Vidarbha boasted influential leaders like Vasant Sathe, who served as a Union Minister from 1980 to 1982. With the exceptions of 1996 and 1999, when Mr. Prakash Ambedkar was elected MP; the BJP has maintained its dominance in the constituency.

Litmus test for Chavan

Nanded, which shares a lengthy boundary with Telangana, is another battleground to keep an eye on in the second phase. The victory of the BJP's incumbent MP, Prataprao Chikhalikar Patil, will serve as a test for two-time Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, who recently switched allegiance to the BJP, breaking ties with the grand old party that his family had long been associated with. Mr. Chavan was defeated by Mr. Chikhalikar in the 2019 election by a margin of over 40,000 votes, and now he is actively campaigning for the latter. Amravati, Akola, and Nanded boast significant numbers of Dalit, Maratha, and Muslim voters.

Maratha reservation, split in the Sena and NCP, inflation, the farm crisis, water scarcity, healthcare, connectivity, and employment opportunities are significant electoral concerns in these areas.

While topics such as the Ram Mandir and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's image garner more attention in urban centres, particularly the district headquarters, these are less discussed in the rural regions, mirroring a broader pattern seen across several constituencies in the State, which sends 48 MPs to Lok Sabha, the largest number after Uttar Pradesh's 80.

In distress: The Vidarbha and Marathwada regions have registered the highest number of farmer suicides in the State. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The seats going to the polls are from Vidarbha and Marathwada, both regions of rural distress in the State

INBRIEF

SC to pass directions in EVM-VVPAT case today

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Wednesday to pass directions on petitions seeking 100% cross verification of vote count in electronic voting machines (EVMs) with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) paper slips. A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had reserved the case for judgment on April 18. The petitioners, including the Association for Democratic Reforms, had argued that 97 crore registered voters in the country had a right to a more transparent electoral system, with or without EVMs. The Election Commission had countered that EVMs were "perfect".

Cong. expels Binay Tamang for 'anti-party' activities

Three days ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Darjeeling, the Congress on Tuesday expelled prominent hill leader Binay Tamang for six years for "anti-party activities". The development comes after he extended support to the BJP's Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat candidate, Raju Bista. "Binay Tamang's suspension will be effective immediately," Congress leader Manoj Chakraborty said. Mr. Tamang was upset after the Congress fielded Munish Tamang, an academic, for the Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency. A close aide of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leader Bimal Gurung, Mr. Binay Tamang had played a crucial role in brokering peace with the State government during the 2017 agitation.

BJP leader says party asked contestants in Surat to withdraw

BJP candidate Mukeshkumar Dalal wins unopposed; six papers were rejected by the Returning Officer and others withdrew their applications

Ateeq Shaikh
MUMBAI

Political game: BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde during a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday . PTI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had approached Independent candidates in Surat and asked them to withdraw their nominations for the Lok Sabha election, the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde said on Tuesday. This led the BJP's Mukeshkumar Dalal to become the first Lok Sabha candidate in 12 years to win unopposed.

"In politics, if you have filled incorrect details in the form and if I haven't raised an objection, the level doesn't fall. We requested the Independent candidates [to withdraw], and they withdrew. Which part of this led to a decline in the level of politics?" Mr. Tawde replied when asked if the BJP has stooped to a political low.

This was during a media interaction in Mumbai on Tuesday, where Mr. Tawde had himself accused the Congress of stooping to a new low in politics; this after the Opposition party's South Goa candidate Captain Viriato Fernandes had remarked that the Constitution was forced upon Goans.

Asked if the BJP approached all the other candidates to withdraw, he responded, "We were approaching everyone to withdraw, even before they filed their respective nominations."

"The ones who wanted None of the Above [NOTA] in the polls, should have fielded their candidate. Why should I be asked to fill in form then; I am contesting to win. As per the rules and as per the Constitution, if everybody withdraws then there is no candidate. If anybody wanted to vote for NOTA then they should have done so. This means NOTA*walas* are also supporting the BJP there," Mr. Tawde remarked.

In Surat, a total of 15 nominations were filed, including those representing the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, and others. Six of them were rejected by the Returning Officer and the others withdrew their applications leaving behind the BJP's Mr. Dalal as an unopposed candidate.

Congress says it will move SC if poll panel does not act on plaint against PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said that it would move the Supreme Court if the Election Commission (EC) did not decide on its complaint against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for suggesting that the Congress would redistribute the country's wealth to Muslims if it came to power.

The Prime Minister had made the remark at a rally in Rajasthan's Banswara on Sunday, following which the Congress, on Monday, moved the EC, seeking action against Mr. Modi. In its official representation to the EC, the Congress alleged that the Prime Minister had invoked religion and religious symbols to create enmity between groups.

'Absence of decision'

"A no decision by the EC is certainly actionable and justiceable. It can be and shall be challenged. In 2019, I had led a delegation to the poll panel to complain against the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Ultimately, the absence of any decision by the EC either way led me to approach the Supreme Court," Congress leader

Jairam Ramesh

and senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi told *The Hindu*. "Time is of the essence here since the model code of conduct and the electoral window is very short. We shall do the same if the EC doesn't decide. At the moment, what the decision will be is not so important but they [EC] must take a decision," he added.

On Tuesday, Praveen Chakravarty, head of the All India Professional Congress, also complained to the EC about a fake WhatsApp message that claimed the Congress would "confiscate two-thirds of your assets for the redistribution to the poor under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Redistribution Scheme".

"I urge you to initiate appropriate action and stop the spread of such malicious rumours," he wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner, adding that a police complaint was being filed under the relevant provisions of the criminal laws.

Hitting back at the Prime Minister for his remarks, the Congress on Tuesday also said that 40% of the wealth created in the country between 2012 and 2021 had gone to just 1% of the population.

Taking to social media platform X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that only an INDIA bloc government can deliver a more inclusive economic growth.

"The Prime Minister will never tell you that: More than 40% of the wealth created in the country from 2012 to 2021 has gone to just 1% of the population."

Approximately 64% of the total Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the country came from the poor, the lower middle classes, and the middle classes, Mr. Ramesh added.

"Most of the public assets and resources sold in the last 10 years have gone to one or two companies; economists have shown that the growing monopolisation of the economy has led to higher inflation," the Congress leader alleged.

Will not alter BJP's ideology for anyone entering or exiting party, says Arun Sao

Sobhana K. Nair
RAIPUR

Arun Sao

Defending the BJP for allowing the entry of leaders from different political parties, many of whom have had ongoing investigations against them by Central security agencies and have now landed ticket for the Lok Sabha election, Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that the party would not compromise on its ideology for any one.

Having set itself the steep target of 370 seats – a rise of 67 seats from its present 303 tally, the BJP, according to some estimates, has given ticket to 34 candidates who joined the party just ahead of the polls.

The Opposition has accused the BJP of using coercive measures such as misusing Central agencies to frame Opposition leaders and promptly dropping the charges against them when they joined the party.

Vehemently denying the charge, Mr. Sao, who also headed the Chhattisgarh BJP till recently, said, "The question is, the Opposition is claiming that BJP is bringing on board corrupt leaders. But were they branded as corrupt when they were with the Opposition parties? And if they were indeed corrupt, then why weren't they thrown out?"

He underlined that the BJP was the only political party driven by an ideology.

This ideology, he said, dictated the policy of the BJP governments both at the Centre and the States, citing the example of abrogation of Article 370, which he pointed out has been part of the Jan Sangh's agenda since 1952.

"People join us, embracing our ideology. Their entry into our party can not and will not change or dilute our ideology. We will not alter our ideology or aims, based on anyone's entry or exit," the Deputy Chief Minister added.

Prime Minister plays down '400-plus' slogan as Opposition plays up fear of brute majority

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anuj Kumar
GHAZIABAD

The shift in focus of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign – from the *Viksit Bharat* (developed India) and "Beyond 400" (seats) pitch to generating fear by saying "our women's *mangalsutra* will be stolen by the Congress's hand" – after the first round of voting has raised questions.

Playing up the majoritarian fear has always been a part of the BJP's strategy, but after two terms in government, a distracted Opposition, and the entry of secular characters into the NDA, it appeared for a while as if the BJP is looking at a post-polarisation scenario in western Uttar Pradesh, where eight constituencies went to the polls in the first phase.

But this time, the Opposition has its counter-narrative of fear. Using the anxiety that the BJP's 400-*paar* pitch is causing among the subaltern groups, the Opposition is portraying a brute majority as a precursor to changing the Constitution envisaged by B.R. Ambedkar and the reservation policy. It thus comes as no surprise that Mr. Modi did not refer to the magic number at the Aligarh rally on Monday.

The Congress manifesto was released on April 5, but it took Mr. Modi more than a fortnight to allege that the party was planning a redistribution of wealth with a Communist mindset.

A Minister in the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh said the Basic Structure of the Constitution would not be touched. "The Opposition is spreading fear. The

Narendra Modi

amendments will be within the framework of the Constitution as has always been the case," he said.

However, he could not back the figure of 400 seats. A BJP worker, when asked about winning 400 seats two days after the first round, conceded, "It is just a rhyming statement made during polls such as *Abki baar Modi sarkar*."

Such pragmatism was missing in the run-up to the first round of election. While Mr. Modi, in his rallies, assured crowds that winning 400 seats would help the government settle more difficult issues, BJP supporters in WhatsApp groups jumped to their own conclusions. In conversations with different caste groups on the ground, the upper-caste BJP voters reacted as if they had read the BJP's *Mann ki Baat* for the next term. From it emerged a long list of what the party could do – a law on population control, disbanding of the Waqf board, and turning India into a Hindu Rashtra.

During the pre-poll campaign, it was clear that despite the BJP carrying out multiple rallies in every western U.P. constituency, there was an average 6.29% drop in turnout in the eight constituencies from the 2019 figure.

The largest drop was recorded in Muzaffarnagar – where the voting percentage dropped by 8.9 points – followed by Rampur, Bijnor and Kairana. Local observers said this drop could not be attributed solely to weather, weddings and harvest.

Those with an ear to the ground could see Mr. Modi changing gears with his Amroha rally on April 19, the polling day, when he deliberated on how the majority community suffered during the local Tigri Festival because of the appeasement politics of the previous governments.

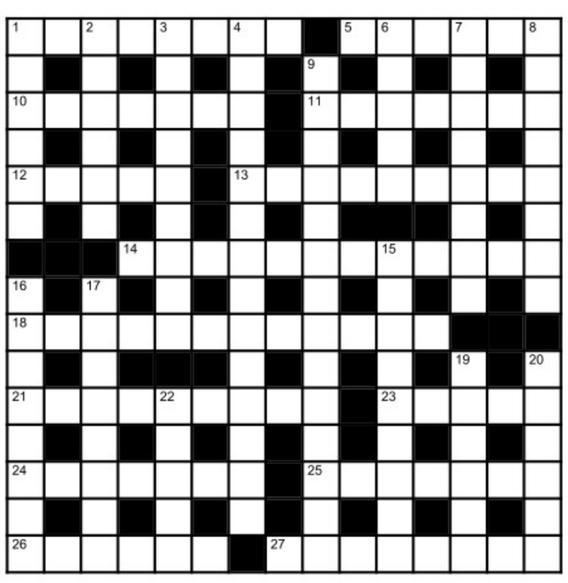
It was a hyper-local factor that left observers surprised that a leader who was talking of *Viksit Bharat* was suddenly changing track. "We realised *baasi kadhi ubal le rahi hai* [a delayed show of enthusiasm]," said a seasoned local journalist, referring to the BJP's return to raking up stale polarising issues.

TH CROSSWORD + 14157

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Ordeal after girl in bash turned most intoxicated (8)
5 Powder in back of closet - salt containing cocaine (6)
10 / 13 What DJs want everyone to do? Comply with what they want (5,2,5,4)
11 Small sample of antivenom in a lab (7)
12 Son ignored insult in match (5)
13 See 10
14 Cash, say, spent in altering film (6,6)
18 Retd bachelor about to marry someone who is much younger (3,3,6)
21 Musical troupe is smooth, entertaining group with bit of blues (5,4)
23 Abandon movement to secure independence (5)
24 A rebellious chap consuming ecstasy on island getting cold and pale (7)
25 Talk foolishly with woman after starting to become drunk (7)
26 Crushed oilseed yielding ordinary oil (6)
27 Assess racehorse gambolling round shed (8)

Down

1 Slightly drunk in bar, lazily cuddling date (6)
2 Ornamental tree in good tattoo on head (6)
3 Hitter went berserk, scoring runs in last over of IPL match (9)
4 Reasonable likelihood of force catching person (8,6)
6 American male picking up joint with hesitation in Indian city (5)
7 Perhaps as bouncy as cylindrical channel markers (3,5)
8 Happy to conserve extremely unusual British tree (8)
9 Bend a rule craftily to secure position as expected (14)
15 Faultless liberal beginning to irritate the wily rogue (4-5)
16 Supporter on top of stage runs wearing blue armband (8)
17 Decline to tackle detectives on reflection and surrender (8)
19 Nobody backs film star releasing flops essentially (6)
20 Make out with hot model over area around fireplace (6)
22 Easy putt in golf that is over millimetres (5)

SUDOKU

		7			1		5	
	3		5	4		6	2	1
				8			7	
7		1	6		3	9		5
	2			5				
4	5	9		6	2		8	
	6		4			5		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

D	I	A	L	O	G	U	E	■
O	■	C	■	R	■	N	■	W
D	R	U	G	G	E	D	■	I
D	■	I	■	A	■	E	■	T
L	A	T	I	N	■	R	E	H
E	■	Y	■	E	■	N	■	O
■	■	■	A	L	L	O	R	N
W	■	I	■	L	■	U	■	E
O	N	T	H	E	C	R	E	S
O	■	I	■	■	■	I	■	T
D	Y	S	P	L	A	S	I	A
S	■	S	■	A	■	H	■	I
M	E	A	T	P	I	E	■	L
E	■	I	■	S	■	D	■	U
N	U	D	G	E	R	■	O	P

W	R	I	T	H	E	■	■	■
A	■	A	■	A	■	N	■	■
I	N	S	T	I	L	S	■	■
T	■	T	■	L	■	I	■	■
R	E	H	E	A	R	S	A	L
N	■	O	■	■	■	P	■	A
O	T	H	I	N	G	■	■	■
E	■	O	■	N	■	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
K	■	C	■	H	■	■	■	■
A	W	A	V	E	■	■	■	■
F	■	C	■	C	■	■	■	■
L	A	T	C	H	E	T	■	■
E	■	E	■	I	■	■	■	■
R	A	T	I	C	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	8	1	6	5	3	2	9
1	9	5	4	2	3	8	6	7
3	6	2	8	9	7	4	5	1
5	4	7	9	1	2	6	3	8
6	2	9	3	7	8	1	4	5
8	3	1	6	5	4	9	7	2
2	1	3	5	8	6	7	9	4
9	5	4	7	3	1	2	8	6
7	8	6	2	4	9	5	1	3

FAITH

Hurdles in our path

The word vritrahan, used in the eleventh mantra of Apratiratha Sukta, is usually taken to mean Indra, who defeated Vritrasura. But Vritrasura was defeated with Vishnu's blessings and he later resided in Indra as hunger. Hunger is not just a reference to the pangs of hunger we feel, but it is the state of being distant from Lord Narayana, said V.S. Karunakaracharyar, in a discourse. Anything that keeps us from Him is an affliction. Vritrasura is symbolic of all that keeps us from the Lord, including our diffidence in approaching an Acharya. All this is destroyed by Lord Narayana. Hence Vritrahan is a reference to Vishnu who destroys everything that prevents us from seeking Him. This can be inferred through the pasurams of the Azhvars. A Thiruvaimozhi pasuram says that we should worship Rama, who cut the 10 heads of Ravana. While explaining this pasuram, Thirukkurugaippiran Pillan does not mention Rama or Ravana. That is because Ravana is symbolic of all that distances us from the Lord. Ravana's 10 heads are our indriyas. Our manas is like Ravana. Rama shoots the arrow of viveka, which destroys hurdles in our path and enables us to reach Him.

It is because of such profound explanations given by Pillan, that Manavala Mamunigal refers to his commentary as one that gives us joy.

INBRIEF

'Nissan sold 39,000 Magnite SUVs for 3 years in a row'

Nissan Motor India announced it had sold more than 39,000 units of compact Sport Utility Vehicle Nissan Magnite in the domestic and export markets for three consecutive years. This remarkable milestone reaffirms the Magnite's position as a game-changer in the Indian automotive market, the Japanese carmaker said. Since the Magnite's debut in December 2020, the company's Alliance plant in Chennai has sold more than 1.35 lakh units of the SUV.

C.P. Gurnani, Rahul Bhatia unveil AI business venture

Rahul Bhatia, Group Managing Director of InterGlobe, and C.P. Gurnani, Chairman of Assago Group and former CEO of Tech Mahindra, have announced the unveiling of AIonOS, an AI business venture. AIonOS will usher in a paradigm shift, by transforming businesses to AI-native enterprises by creating a seamless ecosystem of infrastructure, data, and generative AI to unlock new levels of productivity and profitability, according to a statement.

Swaraj Tractors introduces golden jubilee limited edition

Swaraj Tractors, a part of the Mahindra Group, has unveiled a limited-edition tractor its five variants, which would be available for two months across the country, to mark its golden jubilee. The limited-edition tractor will be available for only two months across the country in five of Swaraj variants – 843 XM, 742 XT, 744 FE, 744 XT, and 855 FE, Swaraj Tractors said. The company manufactures a range of tractors from 11.2 kW (15 HP) to 49.2 kW (65 HP).

'Inflation vulnerable to rising heat'

In the near term, extreme weather events and prolonged geopolitical tensions may pose a risk to price stability, officials led by deputy governor Michael D. Patra write in an article on the 'State of the Economy' in April edition of the RBI Bulletin

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Extreme weather events could pose a risk to inflation Reserve Bank of India's officials cautioned in the April edition of the RBI's Bulletin released on Tuesday.

"CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation has gravitated to 4.9% in March after averaging 5.1% in the preceding two months," officials led by deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra wrote in an article titled "State of the Economy." "In the near term, extreme weather events may pose a risk to inflation along with prolonged geopolitical tensions that could keep crude oil prices volatile," they added.

The officials flagged the World Meteorological Organisation's red alert about global warming in its latest "State of the Global Climate 2023", mentioning a high probability that 2024 would breach the 2023 threshold as the hottest year on record as the world moves toward a freshwater shortage crisis. They cited the WMO as saying, "data from the India Meteorological Department reflects a worrying escalation in extreme weather events necessitating an urgent and collective response".

"Amidst these dire forecasts, there is also hope," they wrote. "According to Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, the chances of La Nina, which result in heavy rainfall in India - emerging after June have risen even as El Nino is dissipating."

Emphasising inflation dynamics in recent prints as a positive development favouring India's growth ambitions, they said beginning January 2024, the softening of headline inflation was providing a tailwind to growth impulses.

"The softening of core (CPI excluding food and fuel) inflation to historic lows in March, driven by moderation across goods and services components, gives credence to the conduct of disinflationary monetary policy," they observed.

Climate risk

RBI officials flag risks to inflation from climate change, cite World Meteorological Organisation's red alert on global warming

- Officials cite WMO's use of IMD data and its call for a 'collective response'
- Point to the onset of La Nina, waning of El Nino as providing hope on rains
- RBI officials underline that the softening of inflation provides growth impulses

'April Flash PMI signals quickening in combined economic output'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Combined output from India's manufacturing and services sectors may have grown at the fastest pace in almost 14 years in April, with services activity likely quickening to a three-month high, the HSBC Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) signalled.

A spurt in international sales is reckoned to have bolstered new order inflows for manufacturing and services firms, with fresh export orders seen to have grown at the fastest pace since September 2014, as per the survey.

The manufacturing sector Flash PMI stood at 59.1 in April, unchanged from March's final reading. The services PMI, which stood at 61.2 in March, rose to 61.7 on the Flash PMI print for this month.

The Flash PMI scores for an ongoing month are based on responses from about 75- 85% of 800 services and manufacturing businesses surveyed for the PMI that is available for each month in the first week of the subsequent month.

"The composite output index rose at the fastest pace in nearly 14 years, with the services PMI climbing further in April, led by a surge in new orders," HSBC economists wrote in a note.

Mixed signals on hiring

Manufacturing firms accelerated hiring while services firms slowed down on new job creation, the Flash PMI signalled, even as both sectors reported a dip in input costs. While manufacturers raised output charges, improving their margins this month, services firms saw operating margins worsen with labour costs spiking.

"The orders-to-inventory ratio for manufacturers continue to remain above one, albeit moderated slightly in April," HSBC economists Pranjul Bhandari and Maitreyi Das observed in the note.

"Overall business confidence ticked up... and panellists expect further improvement in demand conditions over the coming year," they added.

Telecom services AGR rose 1.8% in Dec. quarter

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) of the telecom service sector rose 1.88% on a sequential basis to ₹67,835 crore in the December 2023 quarter, according to telecom regulator TRAI data.

Seen year-on-year, the AGR (earned by telcos from the sale of telecom services and other stipulated items) increased by 7.84%, the data showed.

Access services accounted for 82% of the total adjusted gross revenue of telecom services.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,738	0.12
US Dollar	83.31	0.05
Gold	72,200	-1.96
Brent oil	87.58	0.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3065.10	1.75
Adani Ports	1322.10	1.00
Apollo Hosp	6194.90	-43.65
Asian Paints	2874.90	33.05
Axis Bank	1055.75	1.80
Bajaj Auto	8795.80	0.05
Bajaj Finserv	1621.10	-8.35
Bajaj Finance	7259.90	-32.30
Bharti Airtel	1342.35	44.80
BPCL	593.00	-10.45
Britannia Ind	4797.80	44.50
Cipla	1346.70	-8.15
Coal India	440.95	-2.00
Divis Lab	3768.65	31.15
Dr Reddys Lab	5952.10	-64.00
Eicher Motors	4520.15	53.20
Grasim Ind	2370.15	89.60
HCL Tech	1486.65	20.75
HDFC Bank	1507.60	-4.60
HDFC Life	601.15	-4.80
Hero MotoCorp	4345.05	33.15
Hindalco	611.80	-6.75
Hind Unilever	2262.75	21.25
ICICI Bank	1090.25	3.60
IndusInd Bank	1474.50	-3.00
Infosys	1442.40	9.65
ITC	429.20	3.90
JSW Steel	851.35	-3.45
Kotak Bank	1813.05	3.10
L&T	3610.15	-2.55
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4723.40	47.20
M&M	2062.60	-28.05
Maruti Suzuki	12996.25	210.75
NestleIndia	2501.25	42.55
NTPC	347.15	4.25
ONGC	276.80	0.00
PowerGrid Corp	285.35	1.70
Reliance Ind	2918.65	-41.05
SBI Life	1469.85	-5.55
State Bank	773.00	6.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2426.95	2.30
Sun Pharma	1484.65	-55.45
TataConsumerProduct	1173.35	2.40
Tata Motors	986.75	13.20
Tata Steel	161.15	-0.70
TCS	3874.70	10.10
Tech Mahindra	1200.25	-7.80
Titan	3633.00	36.25
UltraTech Cement	9533.55	-31.70
Wipro	462.10	0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.14	83.46
Euro	88.60	88.94
British Pound	102.71	103.10
Japanese Yen (100)	53.71	53.92
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52
Swiss Franc	91.14	91.49
Singapore Dollar	61.00	61.25
Canadian Dollar	60.66	60.89
Malaysian Ringitt	17.39	17.47
Australian Dollar	53.63	53.84

Source:Indian Bank

India's M&M Financial finds fraud at branch, delays Q4 to May 30

Reuters
BENGALURU/MUMBAI

Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services found company funds had been embezzled by forging documents for retail-vehicle loans at one of its branches, the company said, sending shares sliding as much as 8%.

The non-bank financing arm of tractor-to-tech conglomerate Mahindra Group said it discovered the fraud in late March and taken some corrective actions, including the arrest of "few persons" involved.

"In respect of retail-vehicle loans disbursed by the company, the fraud involved forgery of KYC (know your customer) documents leading to embezzlement of company funds. The investigations in the matter are at an advanced stage," it said.

It estimated the financial impact of the fraud was unlikely to exceed ₹1.50 billion ($18 million).

The company, which was scheduled to report its results for the quarter ended March 31 on Tuesday, delayed that to May 30.

It did not disclose further details.

'Inhibit re-rating'

"We believe issues such as regulatory non-compliance or fraud inhibit re-rating as investor confidence takes a hit," Macquarie analyst Suresh Ganapathy wrote in a note.

He was referring to RBI placing curbs on the NBFC using third-party services to recover loans on "material supervisory concerns" in September 2022. These were lifted in January 2023.

NABARD unveils strategy to mobilise green financing

'India requires $170 billion annually to reach $2.5 trillion by 2030; green finance inflows insufficient'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the occasion of Earth Day unveiled its 'Climate Strategy 2030' document aiming to address India's need for green financing.

NABARD said since India requires approximately $170 billion annually to reach more than $2.5 trillion by 2030, the current green finance inflows are woefully insufficient.

"As of 2019-20, India garnered about $49 billion in green financing, merely a fraction of what is needed. With the majority of funds earmarked for mitigation, only $5 billion was allocated towards adaptation and resilience, reflecting the minimal private sector engagement in these areas due to challenges in bankability and commercial viability," it said in statement.

NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030 is structured around four key pillars which include accelerating green lending across sectors, playing a broader market-making role, internal green transformation and strategic resource mobilisation.

Meanwhile, leading real estate developers have pledged for sustainable development.

DLF, said it had been at the forefront of sustainable construction initiatives. By implementing practices like zero-discharge water systems and sewage treatment plants, it had been able to recycle millions of liters of water daily, reducing the strain on local water sources.

As the only Indian real estate company featured in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the past three years, DLF said it exemplified commitment to environmental, social, and governance excellence.

Aakash Ohri, Joint MD, DLF said "Our sewage treatment plants recycle over 14 million liters of water daily, supporting horticulture, secondary water usage, and lake replenishment, reducing groundwater reliance. We prioritise greenery preservation."

Indian Bank, Tata Power Solar tie up to boost solar energy usage

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Indian Bank said it had entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations.

The collaboration aims to provide financial support under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme for installations up to 3 KW, and from 3 to 10 KW under the regular scheme, the public sector lender said in a statement.

Residential consumers can avail loans up to ₹2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7%, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateral-free financing. The repayment tenure is 10 years.

For installations exceeding 3-10 KW, eligible applicants can avail loans up to ₹6 lakh with a margin money requirement of 20%. Interest rate ranges from 8.4% to 10.8% per annum.

"This initiative is poised to make a profound impact on the widespread adoption of solar solutions," the bank said.

CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
HYDERABAD - 500007.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. 06/2024

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 01st & 02nd May, 2024 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of Ph.D in Chemistry / MSc in (Chemistry / Microbiology / Biotechnology) / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering etc.

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (NIPER)
(Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Raebareli & S.A.S. Nagar)

NIPER Joint Entrance Examination (NIPER JEE-2024) for Master's & Ph.D. Programmes

Applications are invited in the prescribed form through online mode only for NIPER JEE-2024 for admission to Master's & Ph.D. courses of all NIPERs.

Date of commencement of online application	25th April 2024
Date of closing of online application	24th May 2024

Candidates are advised to visit the website of **www.niperguwahati.ac.in** and other NIPER websites for more details regarding online application, eligibility, availability of academic programmes, admission procedure and other relevant information/updates.
Advt. No. NIPER-Ghy/JEE/1/2024
Organizing Institute: NIPER Guwahati
Sd/- Chairman, NIPER JEE-24

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Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Producers'Societies Union Ltd.,
Bannur Road, Alanahalli Post, Mysuru-570028.
Phone No. 0821-2474475, Fax No.0821-2474476,
e - mail : purmymul@gmail.com
IFT No: KMF/2023-24/IND0704 Date: 23.04.2024
Tender Notification (Through e-procurement only)

Mysore Dist. Co-Op Ltd Milk Union Ltd., Mysore Invites tender for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of **new fully automatic aseptic packing** machine lines along with ancillary works at mysuru mega dairy UHT plant on turnkey basis through e-procurement portal. In order to upload tender document please visit e-procurement platform at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or before **22.05.2024, 5.30 PM**.
For further information please contact Manager (purchase) during working hours. **(Mobile No: 7411654265).**
Sd/- Managing Director
Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Union Ltd.,

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client Mr. DEVABHAI RAVRIYA, S/o., Mr. Parmabhai Ravriya is intending to purchase Apartment Unit No. S-917, New No. 47/324, PID No. 81-6-47/324, in Ninth Floor of the commercial complex Known as "MANIPAL CENTRE" constructed on property bearing No.47 (Old No. 3) situated at Dickenson Road, Bangalore, having SBA of 521 sq ft., with the UDI of 142.63 sq ft from its owner **Mrs. SARITA DESCH PAL @ SARITA DEWAN,** D/o., Late Mr. Desh Pal Ahuja, No. A001, "LANSDOWN APARTMENT", 7th Cross Road, Domlur, B'lore-71, Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO &
H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO, *ADVOCATES*
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street,
Bengaluru-01, Mobile No. 9341380225

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my clients **Mr. G Thiruvengadam** S/o Late B.V. Goindaraj and Mrs. Bharathi, W/o Sri G. Thiruvengadam both residing at NO.302, Dorob Seth Road, Austin Town, Bengalore- 560047, has negotiated to purchase the schedule mentioned property from the owner Mr.L.Megavannan S/o. Late. K. Lakshman Residing at No.3, Old No.56,1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047
Any person having objection in the said sale transaction may file their objection before the undersigned advocate within **seven days** from the days of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.3 old.no.56, situated at Viveknagar, 3rd Cross, Viveknagar (earlier sonnehalli extension) BBMP. PID. NO.71-12-3
Measuring:-
East to West : 24.09 feet
North to South : 20.00 feet
Totally measuring 481.80 Sq feet
Residential building at ground floor, first floor, second floor and third floor Bounded on
East by :House no 79,
West by :Road
North by:House No. 55.
South by:House No.57

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No 310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar
Bangalore- 569947 Mobile: 9900609429

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, the following persons as mentioned below are the owners of Survey No. 47/1, 47/4, 47/5, 47/6, 47/7, 47/8, 93/1, 93/3, 15, 36/3 and 65/1 all situated at Sadahalli Village, KasabaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is morefully described in Schedule mentioned hereinbelow and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Properties".
Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7(Seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the completion/expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing survey numbers (described below) totally admeasuring 4 Acre 23Guntas plus 8.12 guntas Karab Land, all situated Sadahalli Village, KasabaHobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent	Extent			Owner	Boundaries			
			Acre	Guntas	Karab		East by	West by	North	South
1.	47/1	0	05	0	0	Shushilamma W/o late Srinivasa	Sy No 47/2	Sy No 44/3	Sy No 46	Sy No 47/4
2.	47/4	0	01	0	0	Srinath Son of Narayanappa Y R	Sy No 47/3	Sy No 44/3	Sy No 47/1	Sy No 47/5
3.	47/5	0	4	0	0	Chandrashekar N Son of Narayanappa Y R	Sy No 47/2	Sy No 44/2 & 44/3	Sy No 47/4	Sy No 47/6
4.	47/6	0	02	0	0	Annaiah Son of Karigowda	Sy No 47/2	Sy No 44/2	Sy No 47/5	Sy No 47/7
5.	47/7	0	02	0	0	Vasudeva Son Srinivasa Rao	Sy No 47/2	Sy No 44/2	Sy No 47/6	Sy No 47/8
6.	47/8	0	2	0	0	N B Jadav Son Late Basappa	Sy No 47/2	Sy No 44/3	Sy No 47/7	Sy No 38/3
7.	93/1	1	24	02	0	Kamalamma, S K Nagarajan and S K Radakrishna	Sy No 97	Sy No 92	Jogahalli and Kempathimanhalli village boundary	Sy No 93/3
8.	93/3	0	09	00	0	S Maheshkumar, S Subramanya and Srinath	Sy No 93/1	Property belonging to Anjinappa land	Property belonging to S A Muniyappa land	Sy No 93/1
9.	15	1	06	03	0	S V Nagaratnamma, Mangala Nagarajan and Ravikiran S	Property belonging to S A Satyanarayana	Private Road	Property belonging to Munishamappa	Sadahalli Nala
10.	36/3	0	30	0	2.12	Y S Ratnamba	Sy No 48	Sy No 37 & 38	Sy No 47	Sy No 30
11.	65/1	0	18	0	01	Munisonnegowda Son of Late K Narayanaswamy	Sy No 65/2	Sy No 64	Sy No 81/3	Sy No 66
Total Extent		4	23	05	3.12					

Place: Bangalore
Date: 24.04.2024

Abhijit Atur, Advocate
M/s Agraa Legal, 2nd floor, No. 19,Shivashankara plaza,
Lalbagh road, Richmond circle,Bangalore - 560 027

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for the **Printing and Supply of "High Security_Document".**
For details visit www.cdit.org
Last date of submission of bids: **30.04.2024 03.00 PM.** Tender will be opened on the same day at 03.30 PM
23.04.2024 Registrar, C-DIT

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CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) (कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834 031, Jharkhand, INDIA

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurment Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in".**

BAKU

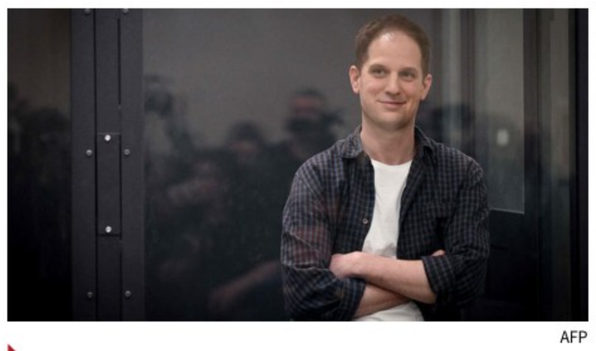
Peace deal with Armenia is closer than ever, says Azerbaijan leader

REUTERS

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said on Tuesday a peace deal with Armenia was closer than ever before, as teams from both countries began demarcating the border in a bid to end decades of territorial disputes and clashes. Officials had agreed to delimit a section based on Soviet-era maps. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia rejects U.S. journalist Gershkovich's detention appeal



AFP

A Moscow court on Tuesday denied U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich's appeal against the extension of his pre-trial detention in an espionage case. The hearing was a technical appeal against an earlier decision to keep Mr. Gershkovich in detention at least until June 30 pending a trial, it did not concern the merits of the case. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine planning to bring military-aged men home to fight

AFP

Ukraine said on Tuesday it was introducing new measures that would encourage military-aged men to return to the country, as the Army struggles, partly due to deepening manpower shortages. Kyiv introduced a new law this month toughening penalties for draft dodgers and lowering the age of mobilisation to 25. AFP

SEOUL

Kim Jong-un oversees N. Korea's 'nuclear counterattack' exercise

AFP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has overseen a drill simulating a "nuclear counterattack," state-run KCNA news agency said on Tuesday. The drill took place on Monday. Seoul's military had earlier announced that the North had fired several short-range ballistic missiles on Monday, with Tokyo confirming the launch. AFP

'Hamas brass will stay in Doha if useful for truce talks'

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

Qatar said on Tuesday that Hamas's political leadership would stay in Doha as long as their presence remained beneficial to mediation efforts aimed at ending the war in Gaza.

"As long as their presence is useful and positive in this mediation effort, they will remain here," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari said.

Qatar has rebuffed criticism of its mediation efforts from Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Ansari said on Tuesday the decision to re-evaluate those efforts was prompted by frustration with political attacks including from "ministers in Netanyahu's government, who spoke negatively about the Qatari mediation."

He added: "They all know what the Qatari role is, its nature, and its details during the previous stage and they lied."

Pro-Palestinian protests sweep U.S. college campuses

More than 100 demonstrators were arrested at Columbia last week as schools debate where to draw the line between allowing free expression while maintaining safe and inclusive campuses

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Columbia cancelled in-person classes, dozens of protesters were arrested at New York University and Yale, and the gates to Harvard Yard were closed to the public on Monday as some of the most prestigious U.S. universities sought to defuse campus tensions over Israel's war with Hamas.

More than 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had camped out on Columbia's green were arrested last week, and similar encampments have sprouted up at universities around the country as schools struggle with where to draw the line between allowing free expression while maintaining safe and inclusive campuses.

At New York University, an encampment set up by students swelled to hundreds of protesters throughout the day on Monday. The school said it warned the crowd to leave, then called in the police after the scene became disorderly and the university said it learned of reports of "intimidating chants and several antisemitic incidents." Shortly after 8:30 p.m., officers began making arrests.

Voice of youth: People rally inside the Columbia University which is occupied by pro-Palestian protesters in New York on Tuesday. AFP

"It's a really outrageous crackdown by the university to allow the police to arrest students on our own campus," New York University law student Byul Yoon said.

"Antisemitism is never OK. That's absolutely not what we stand for and that's why there are so many Jewish comrades that are here with us today," Ms. Yoon said.

The protests have pitted students against one another, with pro-Palestinian students demanding that their schools condemn Israel's assault on Gaza and divest from companies that sell weapons to Israel. Some Jewish students, meanwhile, say much of the criticism of Israel has veered into antisemitism and made them feel unsafe.

Tensions remained high on Monday at Columbia, where the campus gates were locked to anyone without a school ID and where protests broke out both on campus and outside.

Protests have roiled many college campuses since Hamas's deadly attack on southern Israel. During the ensuing war, Israel has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The latest developments came ahead of the Monday evening start of the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Five dead trying to cross English Channel hours after U.K. passes deportation law

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Five persons, including a seven-year-old girl, died while attempting to cross the English Channel early on Tuesday morning, according to French authorities. The deaths occurred within hours of the British parliament passing a controversial law that will permit the deportation of those seeking asylum in the U.K. to Rwanda. The new law is primarily aimed at stopping migrants entering the U.K. on small boats crossing the Channel.

The overcrowded boat, carrying 110 people, left Wimereux, 32 km from Calais in France, as per a *Reuters* report. The boat stopped a few hundred metres from its origin, and several people fell into the water. According to the report, 47 people were brought back to land, and four admitted to the hospital. Another 57 individuals chose to stay on the boat heading to the U.K.

Mr. Sunak, who was on a trip to Warsaw on Tuesday, said the incident was "tragic" and said it underscored "why you need a deterrent". A record number of individuals had arrived in the U.K. on small boats in the first quarter of 2024, according to U.K. government data.

"This Government is doing everything we can to end this trade, stop the boats and ultimately break the business model of the evil people smuggling gangs, so they no longer put lives at risk," Home Secretary James Cleverly said on X.

Risky voyage: Migrants brought into Dover Port by a lifeboat after being picked up in the English Channel on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

The Safety of Rwanda Bill passed late on Monday night, after crossbench and opposition peers in the U.K. House of Lords stopped pressing for their amendments to go through in the final version of the Bill. Earlier in the process, the Upper House of parliament, where the Conservative Party of Mr. Sunak does not have a majority, had wanted to include amendments to the legislation exempting Afghans who had helped the U.K. military from deportation and setting up a committee to monitor the safety of Rwanda as a third country accepting asylum seekers.

Mr. Sunak, who said on Monday that the first flights carrying migrants to Rwanda would leave in 10-12 weeks, hailed the new law on as fundamentally changing the global equation on migration.

Core issue

"Our focus is to now get flights off the ground, and I am clear that nothing will stand in our way of doing that and saving lives," he said. Migration is a core issue as the U.K. heads towards a general election and the plan to deport asylum seekers by flying them to Rwanda, has been in the works since 2022. However, the policy has been reshaped in response to the many legal challenges it has faced and not a single flight has taken off to date.

The opposition Labour Party's shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, called the Rwanda policy an "extortionate election gimmick instead of a serious plan".

Rights groups slam law

Several human rights groups including the UN refugee agency and the Council of Europe criticized the U.K.'s new law.

"The new legislation marks a further step away from the U.K.'s long tradition of providing refuge to those in need, in breach of the Refugee Convention," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said.

The Council of Europe's human rights body chief, Michael O'Flaherty expressed a number of concerns including that the law "significantly excludes the ability of U.K. courts to fully and independently scrutinise the issues brought before them" by those claiming asylum.

Taiwan's Lai lauds U.S. aid package

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan's incoming President Lai Ching-te said on Tuesday that a multi-billion U.S. military aid package will "strengthen deterrence against authoritarianism", as China ramps up pressure on the self-ruled island.

Democratic Taiwan is claimed by China, which has said it would never renounce the use of force to bring the island under its control.

Taipei has in recent years bolstered its economic and political ties with top partner and weapons provider the United States, a move that China has warned Washington against doing.

U.S. tabloid publisher to testify in Trump's hush money trial

Associated Press
NEW YORK

A longtime tabloid publisher was expected on Tuesday to tell jurors about his efforts to help Donald Trump stifle unflattering stories during the 2016 campaign as testimony resumes in the historic hush money trial of the former President.

David Pecker, the former National Enquirer publisher who prosecutors say worked with Mr. Trump and Mr. Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen on a strategy called "catch and kill" to buy up and then spike negative stories about the former President, testified briefly on Monday and will be back on the stand on Tuesday in the Manhattan trial.

Also on Tuesday, prosecutors are expected to tell a judge that Mr. Trump should be held in contempt over a series of posts on his Truth Social platform that they say violated an earlier gag order barring him from attacking witnesses in the case.

Mr. Trump's lawyers deny that he broke the order.

Sport

Stung by an early reverse, Odisha rallies to turn the tables on Mohun Bagan

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha FC fought back from a deficit to defeat League Shield champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant 2-1 in the semifinal first leg of ISL-10 at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

Bagan went into the lead in the third minute through Manvir Singh before Carlos Delgado and Roy Krishna found the target once each to hand Odisha the advantage going into the second leg in Kolkata on April 28.

Both teams were down to 10 midway through the second half after Bagan forward Armando Sadiku and Odisha defender Delgado were ejected following their second booking.

Making the difference: Krishna, centre, was in the thick of things for Odisha and scored the match-winner. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Odisha exploited Bagan's lack of intensity in the opening period.

Though the Kolkata outfit drew first blood – Manvir nodded home a Dimitri Petratos corner – it went into a shell and allowed the host to claw back.

Odisha cashed in on the opportunity, making repeated forays and earning five corners in quick succession.

It tasted success off the final corner of that series and restored parity in the 11th minute. Ahmed Jahouh curled the ball into the Bagan goalmouth for an unmarked Delgado to fire it home.

The home team could have gone ahead in the 14th minute when it was given a penalty, but the decision was overturned by the referee, who, after consulting his assistant, flagged Krishna off-side.

Odisha found the lead in the 39th minute when Krishna outmuscled Bagan centre-back Hector Yuste and tapped it home.

That proved the final strike of the day.

The result (semifinal, first leg):

Odisha FC 2 (Delgado 11, Krishna 39) bt Mohun Bagan Super Giant 1 (Manvir Singh 3).

Defensive battle may well decide the result between Mumbai and Goa

Aneesh Dey
MARGAO

Mumbai City FC will lock horns with FC Goa in the first leg of the second semifinal of ISL 10 at the Jawaharlal Nehru (Fatorda) Stadium on Wednesday.

The Islanders enjoyed a commanding league stage, reaching their highest points tally (47) in the competition, but failed to defend the League Shield after a 2-1 loss against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the deciding clash.

Now, head coach Petr Kratky and his men will aim to win the ISL Cup, a title Mumbai last won in the 2020-21 season when it achieved the famous double (League Shield and Cup) under then-head coach Sergio Lobera.

All set: Mumbai City will aim to put behind the disappointment of not winning the League Shield when it face Goa in the semifinals. PTI

"We have to be ready from the start. I am happy because the boys look positive, and they have bounced back [from the Shield defeat], but we have some things to improve going into the semifinals," said Kratky. FC Goa also relished an admirable league phase under Manolo Marquez's guidance, finishing third with 45 points.

"If you miss a good chance, it's okay, keep going. If you score a goal, you need to keep going, in a playoffs scenario," Marquez said.

While both outfits have a stellar attacking lineup, the defensive battle between the two will be a highly anticipated one. MCFC has the best defensive record till now, conceding just 19, while FCG follows closely in second, after conceding 21 goals.

Final at home ground of top-ranked team

PTI reports

The final, scheduled on May 4, will be played at the home ground of the higher-ranked team in the league among the finalists.

Kolkata, Mumbai and Goa are therefore in contention to host the final. Tickets will go on sale once the venue is confirmed.

PILING IT UP

Super Kings go level with Somerset for most 200-plus totals in T20s

M. VEDHAN

By scoring 210 on Tuesday, Chennai Super Kings has tied Somerset's record for most 200+ totals in men's T20 cricket. It was CSK's 34th 200+ total, with 31 coming in the IPL. Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Yorkshire have 29 200+ totals in the shortest-format, with the former also registering 26 200+ scores in the IPL.

PLEASED AS PUNCH

Jaiswal batted with maturity against Mumbai Indians: Lara

K. MURALI KUMAR

Impressed with the maturity shown by Yashasvi Jaiswal, West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara said the youngster's knock against Mumbai Indians was well put together. "It was well put together, great cricketing shots, he's managed throughout the innings. He's shown a lot of responsibility, a lot of maturity."

LOTTERY

If you're bowling at the death, it can go both ways: Sandeep

K. MURALI KUMAR

With the old ball, you have to adapt and evolve as a bowler. If you're bowling at the death, it can go both ways. Sometimes, you go for runs, and when you're lucky enough you end up getting a wicket — Rajasthan Royals' Sandeep Sharma after his match-winning five-wicket haul against Mumbai Indians on Monday.

STATUS QUO

Narine rules out T20 World Cup amid purple patch in IPL

K.R. DEEPAK

Sunil Narine, who is having a terrific IPL season, won't be reversing his retirement decision for the upcoming T20 World Cup. "I'm truly flattered and humbled that my performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for me to come out of retirement." He asserted that he has made peace with his decision.

Stoinis' Super Giant effort knocks the stuffing out of Super Kings

The Aussie bludgeons a wayward attack to help the Lucknow side pull off a sensational win and overshadow Ruturaj's unbeaten century

IPL-17

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

At the halfway stage, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) would have felt good about its chances after skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's unbeaten century (108 n.o., 60b, 12x4, 3x6) helped the side to 210 for four against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

But Marcus Stoinis stunned a boisterous crowd into pin-drop silence with a sensational, unbeaten 124 (63b, 13x4, 6x6) to help LSG beat the host by six wickets for the second time in four days at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

Needing 17 off the last over, Stoinis took down Mustafirzur Rahman over long-on for a maximum before collecting a hat-trick of boundaries to seal the chase in style.

At 88 for three in 11 overs, the host held an upper hand, but Stoinis found an able ally in Nicholas Pooran, who gave the chase momentum with a 15-ball 34 (3x4, 2x6) that was filled with his trademark shots through extra cover. The duo added 70 runs off just 34 balls for the fourth wicket.

Lucknow's chase got off poorly when Deepak Chahar bowled Quinton de Kock in the first over, but Stoinis produced a fine innings with controlled aggression, choosing his bowlers and target areas with precision.

The Australian all-rounder got going with two boundaries off Chahar and took his chances against the spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali with some clean hits down the ground. He then went after Tushar Deshpande in the 13th over, hitting the pacer for a six and four as the CSK pacers struggled in dewy conditions.

Ruturaj had earlier shone on a tricky pitch with his silken touch even as other batters around him struggled. He put on a driving masterclass in the PowerPlay, collecting six boundaries – two against Mohsin Khan, Ravi Bishnoi and Matt Henry.

Later, the 27-year-old unleashed his big-hitting capabilities with pulls and powerful lofted shots down the ground. His efforts were complemented by Shivam Dube, who unleashed a barrage of sixes in his knock of 66 off just 27 balls (3x4, 7x6).

The duo added 104 runs for the fourth wicket in just 46 balls, and CSK got 125 in the last ten overs, but that was not enough against Stoinis' rampage.

Making merry: Chennai fans were treated to a repertoire of audacious strokes from Ruturaj and Stoinis. M. VEDHAN

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	8	7	1	14	0.698
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	5	2	10	1.206
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	5	2	10	0.914
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.148
Chennai Super Kings	8	4	4	8	0.415
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	8	-1.055
Mumbai Indians	8	3	5	6	-0.227
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	6	-0.477
Punjab Kings	8	2	6	4	-0.292
Royal Challengers	8	1	7	2	-1.046

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ajinkya Rahane c Rahul b Henry 1 *(3b)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad (not out) 108 *(60b, 12x4, 3x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Hooda b Yash Thakur 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Rahul b Mohsin 17 *(19b, 2x4)*, Shivam Dube run out 66 *(27b, 3x4, 7x6)*, M.S. Dhoni (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 210.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Rahane, 0.6 overs), 2-49 (Mitchell, 5.2), 3-101 (Jadeja, 11.5), 4-205 (Dube, 19.4).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING

Henry 4-0-28-1, Mohsin 4-0-50-1, Bishnoi 2-0-19-0, Yash Thakur 4-0-47-1, Stoinis 4-0-49-0, Krunal 2-0-16-0.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Quinton de Kock b Chahar 0 *(3b)*, K.L. Rahul c Ruturaj b Mustafizur 16 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Marcus Stoinis (not out) 124 *(63b, 13x4, 6x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal **(Impact Player in place of Yash Thakur)** b Pathirana 13 *(19b)*, Nicholas Pooran c Shardul b Pathirana 34 *(15b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Deepak Hooda (not out) 17 *(6b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-3, w-3): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 19.3 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (de Kock, 0.3), 2-33 (Rahul, 4.4), 3-88 (Padikkal, 10.6), 4-158 (Pooran, 16.3).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Chahar 2-0-11-1, Deshpande 3-0-34-0, Mustafizur 3.3-0-51-1, Shardul **(Impact player in place of Rahane)** 3-0-42-0, Moeen 2-0-21-0, Jadeja 2-0-16-0, Pathirana 4-0-35-2.

Toss: LSG.

PoM: Stoinis.

LSG won by six wickets with three balls to spare.

Next assignment

LSG: April 27 vs **RR**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: April 28 vs **SRH**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Inconsistent Capitals and confident Titans eye a crucial win

Game-changer: Tewatia, who took Titans home against Kings, will be keen to continue the good run. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Anish Pathiyil
NEW DELHI

A heavy spell of rain and strong gusts of wind interrupted the practice sessions on the eve of the IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Titans at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Both teams have had similar disruptions in their attempt to climb up the points table this season, failing to string together a series of positive results and more importantly strong performances. Another loss at home could put DC's chances of making it to the playoffs in serious jeopardy.

Despite the drubbing Delhi Capitals' bowlers received at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad, they will not have to look too far for inspiration, having bundled out the Titans' batting unit for 89 in its backyard barely a week ago.

Rishabh Pant and Tristan Stubbs have contributed to the team consistently, but Jake Fraser-McGurk has arguably been the most impressive, striking two half-centuries in three matches so far.

Titans have middle-order issues of their own to deal with, but will head into the game in a positive frame of mind after a crucial win against Punjab Kings last time out.

The gaping hole left by the unavailability of Mohammed Shami is also yet to be cloaked, with both Umesh Yadav and Sandeep Warrier proving to be ineffective. The team will bank on the spin triumvirate of Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad and the star of the last game, R. Sai Kishore, to do the damage with the ball.

A win would put the Titans in contention for a top-four finish, a feat they have achieved in each of the previous two editions.

Today's match

DELHI CAPITALS vs. GUJARAT TITANS

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
PLAYED: 4
DC 2 | GT 2

PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by six wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

Kuldeep has come a long way in his search for Zen

Amol Karhadkar
NEW DELHI

When a sportsperson is confident about his craft on the field or inside the arena, it makes him relaxed off it. The converse may not always be true. With Kuldeep Yadav, though, the converse does appear true.

As a result, after having a mixed bag of 4-0-55-4 against Sunrisers Hyderabad over the weekend, Kuldeep is neither dejected by the seven sixes that were hit off him nor is he over the moon with four key wickets he picked for Delhi Capitals.

The wristspinner, who is nearing 30, admitted that the prolonged knee injury break in 2021 made him realise how to back his strengths and respect the opponents.

More importantly, he realised the worth of people.

"When you are not doing well, that's when you need a core group of people around you who you can fall back on. I had my coach (Kapil Pandey) and my family doing the same for me," a relaxed Kuldeep says.

"The discussions with the family opened me up about approach towards life. And my coach made me realise what I had to do to enhance my skills.

"I had tried adding pace earlier but not in the right way. I went to the physio, he suggested some changes and all of it worked together after the injury."

While Kuldeep attributes India captain Rohit Sharma for "showing faith in me immediately after the injury break" he narrates how Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting and bowling coach Shane Watson helped him get his mojo back in Indian Premier League 2022, his first season with Delhi Capitals.

While Rohit pushed him to concentrate on his Test batting earlier in the season, Kuldeep jokingly revealed Rohit's advice to him just before the IPL.

"All he told me was to take it slightly easy and not stretch myself too much," says Kuldeep, with a glitter in his eyes and the confidence of doing well in the T20 World Cup.

Gaining perspective: Kuldeep says the prolonged knee injury break in 2021 made him realise how to back his strengths and respect the opponents. SANDEEP SAXENA

Under pressure, a lot of the plans went out the window: Ponting

Anish Pathiyil
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting said the lacklustre bowling effort against Sunrisers Hyderabad holds plenty of lessons for his team ahead of the IPL 2024 encounter versus Gujarat Titans at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday.

"When we got put under pressure, a lot of the plans went out the window and it looked like we were confused," Ponting said.

A major issue plaguing the bowling has been the ineffectiveness of Anrich Nortje, who has picked only six wickets with an economy rate of 12.94 this season.

"Ahead of the season, everything looked to be going reasonably well, but as the games have gone on it's been evident to us that he isn't 100 per cent," the coach said. "We gave him a few games off and I thought he bowled well last game."

In the opposite camp, Gujarat Titans batter David Miller downplayed the middle-order issues the team has been facing.

"I don't think there are any issues in the middle order. I think, throughout the tournament, we've done what we needed to do," Miller said.

"We've had a few close games that we have won and a few we've lost. This year, the table is tight, it's just about getting back to basics and feeding off each other," he added.

Learning curve: Ponting said the underwhelming bowling effort against SRH holds plenty of lessons for DC. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

World in his hands: Kasparov says the success of Gukesh and other young Indians is an indicator of the nation's diaspora to achieve more in the game. FIDE

Indian earthquake in Toronto: Kasparov

Former World champion, whose record Gukesh broke on Sunday, says the triumph marks the 'shifting tectonic plates' in the game's global order

CANDIDATES CHESS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

It's "the Indian earthquake in Toronto", said Russian chess legend Garry Kasparov as he lauded teen Grandmaster D. Gukesh for becoming the youngest-ever challenger for the World title, a triumph which marks the "shifting tectonic plates" in the game's global order.

The 17-year-old Gukesh bettered the record created by none other than Kasparov 40 years ago. The Russian was 22 when he qualified in 1984 to clash with compatriot Anatoly Karpov.

"Congratulations! The Indian earthquake in Toronto is the culmination of the shifting tectonic plates in the chess world as the 17 year old Gukesh D will face the Chinese champion Ding Liren for the highest title," wrote Kasparov on 'X', referring to the Russian domination of the past.

Lauding Anand

Kasparov acknowledged five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand's contribution to Indian chess, saying, "The 'children' of Vishy Anand are on the loose!" Kasparov was responding to a congratulatory tweet by Grand Chess Tour following Gukesh's success.

"Congratulations to Gukesh D for his victory in the FIDE Candidates, securing his place as a challenger in the World Championship Match! We eagerly anticipate his participation in our grand chess tour events!," wrote Grand Chess Tour on 'X'.

In another social media post Kasparov highlighted the shift in power centre of chess.

"Look at the names of many of the top junior players in the USA and England to see that the Chinese and Indian diaspora are just as passionate to achieve at chess.

"The Kasparov Chess Foundation has watched this wave rise and Gukesh's success will raise it further," Kasparov, the undisputed World champion from 1985 till 1993, wrote on 'X'.

Kasparov was ranked World No. 1 for a record 255 months overall, from 1984 until his retirement from regular competitive chess in 2005.

Focus on timings as TCS World 10k Bengaluru approaches

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

With a new route in store for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024, the focus turns to the timings that runners – elite and amateurs – will aim to clock.

In earlier editions, the Sree Kanteerava Stadium hosted the start and finish line. The 16th edition of the World Athletic Gold Label Race, which will be held here on Sunday, will start outside Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw Parade Ground and finish on Kamaraj Road (outside Army Public School).

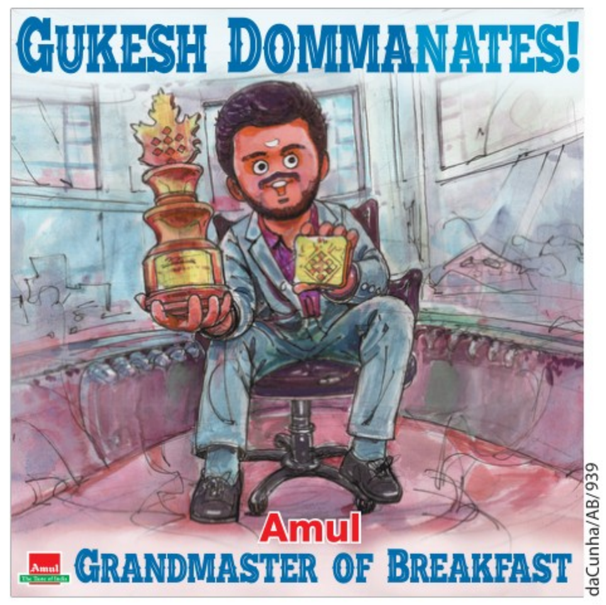
The old route aided an especially fast final two kilometres, which may not be the case here, given that the new start and finish are on high ground.

Race director, Hugh Jones stated that this race has a "different balance to it". "The new start and finish are pretty much on high ground and the course goes out and back a few times, so it will be interesting to see how participants will pace themselves in the final stretch," Jones said at the technical press conference here on Tuesday.

"It is not any more difficult than the previous courses. It covers pretty much the same elevations. There are gradients, but not severe gradients," Jones added.

All set: The new route for TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024 unveiled at a press conference on Tuesday

Vivek Jawali – chairman Cardiac Sciences, Fortis Hospitals and event medical director – called on participants to "plan their hydration properly along the route", to counter the unprecedented heat wave in the city. Shashikala, ACP Bengaluru Traffic Police, Central Sub-Division, stated that careful arrangements have been made to ensure that the run causes minimal difficulty to the general public.



BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Easy for Cricket Beyond Technique

BENGALURU: Cricket Beyond Technique defeated Six CA by five wickets in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament here.

The scores: Six CA 175/8 in 30 overs (Anjaney Gupta 68) lost to CBT 177/5 in 23.4 overs (Ramnath Nayak 39, Sanjith Satish 78).

Just CA 63 in 19.1 overs (S. Vignesh 3/9, V. Pranav 3/15) lost to Young lions 66 for no loss in 7 overs (Shivaraj 27 n.o.).

Just CA 188/6 in 30 overs (C. Hemanth 50) lost to Six CA 189/7 in 22.2 overs (Tanush Mishra 69, Aadi Rajput 26, C. Hemanth 3/48).

Young Lions 72 in 20.5 overs (R. Pavandeep 3/4) lost to Playsmart 74/1 in 9.2 overs.

Anurag advances

S.K. Anurag took out Varad Pol 6-1, 6-1 in the boy's second round of the NuWare Asian ranking under-16 tennis tournament at Topspin Tennis Academy courts here on Tuesday. In the girls' second round, P. Anvi shut out S. Joshitha 6-1, 6-1.

Technico FF posts win

Technico FF edged out Blues FA 1-0 in the KSFA women's B division football league here on Tuesday.

The results: KSFA women's B division: Alchemy IFA 0 drew with BFLA 0; OTB 3 (Shivangi Sharma 25, 34, D. Jennifer 30) bt MYFA 0; Technico FF 1 (Rithika 18) bt Blues FA 0.

BDFA men's C division: Vinayaka FC 1 (Niyemuthulla 39) bt ITC FC 0; Bangalore Phantom FC 3 (Ashish 9, S. Karthik 21, R. Lokho 25) bt Sarvagnanagar FC 0; C2 FC 2 (Prayag 4, Milind 60) bt Dharma Raja Union FC 0.

INBRIEF

Sreeja becomes top-ranked Indian woman paddler

CWG mixed doubles champion Sreeja Akula on Tuesday became the top-ranked Indian woman table tennis player after rising to career-high rank of 38 in the latest ITTF chart, replacing Manika Batra. Sreeja climbed a spot while Manika, who had been India's No. 1 for a while now, slipped two places to 39 in the latest update. Sreeja had won the mixed doubles gold at the 2022 CWG alongside Sharath Kamal, who continues to be the top-ranked male player, occupying the 37 spot in the rankings while G. Sathiyan and Manav Thakar have interchanged places to be 60th and 61st respectively.

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.15 a.m. onwards (Thursday)

Inter seals Serie A title

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Inter Milan won Serie A on Monday after beating AC Milan 2-1 and creating an unassailable lead at the top of the league with its sixth straight derby victory.

Inter has a 17-point advantage over closest challengers Milan and secured its 20th league crown with five matches of the season remaining.

The results: Serie A: Roma 1 (Azmoun 56) lost to Bologna 3 (El Azzouzi 14, Zirkzee 45, Saelemaekers 65); AC Milan 1 (Tomori 80) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Acerbi 18, Thuram 49).
LaLiga: Sevilla 2 (En-Nesyri 61, Romero 75) bt Real Mallorca 1 (Prats 90+5).

Bonmati and Djokovic sportspersons of the year

Reuters
MADRID

Spain's World Cup winning midfielder Aitana Bonmati and Serbia's Novak Djokovic were the Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year at the Laureus awards on Monday.

List of winners: World Sportswoman of the Year: Aitana Bonmati (football); **World Sportsman of the Year:** Novak Djokovic (tennis); **World Team of the Year:** Spain women's football team; **World Breakthrough of the Year:** Jude Bellingham (football); **World Comeback of the Year:** Simone Biles (gymnastics); **World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:** Diede de Groot (wheelchair tennis); **World Action Sportsperson of the Year:** Arisa Trew (skateboarding). **Laureus Sport for Good:** Rafa Nadal Foundation.

When the food was more attractive than the competition

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Major sports tend to run on parallel tracks – one for nation-teams like at the Olympics or World Cups, and the other for club and non-nation competitions. The latter is becoming more popular. Formula One, the fourth most watched sport in the world was ahead of the curve, competition being between cars and mixed teams rather than based on countries ever since its inception in 1950.

Perhaps all sports tend to move towards such mixed teams, aspiring, like the IPL, to rid sport of jingoism and waving of national flags. This is not a planned, thought-out strategy, merely one that has evolved. Playing for the country is still the highest aspiration for many young cricketers, but players are coming through who might be happier if their careers began and ended with the various T20 franchises.

World XIs and all that

Cricket tried to marry the two strains – country-wise competition and the mixed team one – with series like the 'Rest of the World' versus England or Australia.

In 1966, the year England won the football World Cup, they also won a cricket 'world cup'; except that the latter was a 50-over tournament among the West Indies, England and a World XI chosen by the readers of the *Radio Times*. The team had Bob Simpson, Hanif Mohammed, Graeme Pollock, Colin Bland, Tiger Pataudi, Bapu Nadkarni.

Both England and the West Indies beat the World XI, and then England beat the West Indies in the final at Lord's. This match might have been officially recognised as the first one-day international; it took nearly another decade for the format to earn such recognition. Two years later, England beat a World XI in a three-day match. This team, chosen by BBC viewers and readers of Radio Times, was to be led by Pataudi, but he fell ill and the captaincy passed to Garry Sobers.

But an idea had taken root, so when the South Africa tour of 1970 was called off following protests against apartheid, a World XI was quickly assembled to play a five-match series originally designated 'Tests'.

The status was later revoked by the International Cricket Council. Sobers scored more runs (588) and took more wickets (21) than anyone else, and World XI won 4-1.

England skipper Ray Illingworth described the World XI as "the best ever side to take the cricket field, stronger than the 1948 Australians, man for man." Consider the batting order: Barry Richards, Eddie Barlow, Rohan Kanhai, Graeme Pollock, Clive Lloyd, Garry Sobers.

Yet, Mushtaq Mohammed probably summed up the feeling of the players when he said, "After it all finished I was left with a funny feeling because we weren't playing under a flag. Despite the victories, there wasn't the 'feather in the cap' feeling when I was winning with Pakistan. It had been an honour, but at the same time the inner satisfaction was missing."

It was a thought echoed by John Benaud following the next 'World XI' series in Australia, 1971-72, put together for the same reason, a cancelled tour by South Africa. "Because we were playing the Rest of the World, and not England or South Africa, there wasn't a real Test match feeling for me as a player making his debut," he said. "It didn't have the sort of effect it would've had if I were playing a country."

Again, the World XI was led by Sobers who again finished the top scorer thanks to an innings of 254 in Melbourne which Don Bradman called the finest seen in Australia. Again it was the World XI who won, 2-1, and again the Test status initially granted the series was withdrawn later. Three Indians played in that team: Bishan Bedi, Farokh Engineer and a young Sunil Gavaskar. Dennis Lillee announced his arrival with eight for 29 which dismissed the World for 59 in an innings defeat.

Kerry Packer's World Series cricket had a Rest of the World team in it, and in the new century, the ICC decided to have a world champions (Australia) versus the Rest, a 'Super Test' in Sydney which Australia won comfortably. Crowds stayed away and the concept was never repeated.

England's Andrew Flintoff was among those who were opposed to it from the start. "I can't think of anything worse," he said, adding, "I'm only here for the food." Yet, had Muttiah Muralitharan not played that match, his tally of Test wickets would have fallen short of 800.

UNCONDITIONAL PUBLIC APOLOGY

In wake of on going matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (Writ Petition C. No. 645/2022), we in our individual capacity as well as on behalf of the Company, unconditionally apologise for the non-compliance or disobedience of directions/ orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

We unconditionally extend the apology for holding meeting/press conference dated 22.11.2023. We earnestly apologize for the mistake made in publishing our advertisements and it is our wholehearted commitment that such errors will not be repeated. We undertake to abide by directions and instructions of the Hon'ble Court with due care and utmost sincerity. We undertake to uphold the majesty of the court and comply with applicable laws and directions of the Hon'ble Court of law/relevant authorities.

Sincerely,

Patanjali Ayurved Limited,
Acharya Balkrishna,
Swami Ramdev,
Haridwar, Uttarakhand